

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, PETITIONS AND MEMBERS' LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL ON THE 2016 YOUTH PARLIAMENT HELD IN GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBER ON 23 - 24 JUNE 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa empowers the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature with a responsibility, in terms of section 118(1), to facilitate public involvement in the legislative and other processes of the Legislature and its committees, conduct its business in the open manner and its sittings and those of its committees in public.

As part of the mechanism, the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature establishes and empower the Select Committee on Public Participation, Petitions and Members' Legislative Proposals (the Committee) to facilitate Youth Parliament, among others, which provide a platform for discussing critical issues with youth in the province.

The Committee tables this report, in terms of Rule 118 of the Rules and Orders, to give full account on the subsequent hosting of the 2016 Youth Parliament at Gert Sibande District Council Chamber in Msukaligwa Local Municipality on 24 June 2016 and recommend for its adoption.

2. THEME

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature had approved the Youth Parliament to be guided under the theme **“Advancing People’s power to enhance the gains of democracy”**.

Discussions and interaction in commissions were guided by the following approved thematic areas/topics, with item 2.5 collapsed for discussion under item 2.3:

- 2.1 Youth involvement towards quality and relevant education;**
- 2.2 Youth involvement towards Radical Economic transformation;**
- 2.3 Youth involvement in Local Governance and Governance Societal Structures;**
- 2.4 Youth involvement towards more socially cohesive communities; and**
- 2.5 Building the capability of the state to play a developmental and transformation role.**

The arrangement was that each commission should appoint a rapporteur and a scribe whose tasks were to record the discussions and prepare a report back to the plenary. Technical staff of the legislature was assigned to each commission for the purpose of being resource persons and assistance with the report compilation.

3 OBJECTIVES

Within our broad strategic objective of increasing public involvement in processes of the Legislature and Petitions, the objectives of this youth parliament are to:

- Create an opportunity for youth to engage with the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature on issues affecting them as young people;
- Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the 1976 Student Uprising; and
- Encourage the youth participation, as key role players, in the oversight and public involvement processes of the Legislature.

4 METHOD OF WORK

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature had scheduled the hosting of Youth Parliament to be in Gert Sibande District on the 24th of June 2016. The Cross-Functional Task Team was then established and assigned a function to work on the hosting of the Youth Parliament including the conceptual documents. Preparations were commenced with the identification of a suitable venue and Msukaligwa Local Municipality area (Ermelo) was confirmed and that the Gert Sibande District Council Chamber was found to be more appropriate; the necessary approval was obtained.

The mobilisation was targeting the attendance of two hundred (200) participants selected from all the three districts of the Province. The 200 participants were distributed proportionally as per the representation of the political parties in the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature but to also include other youth formations outside political parties that were given 20 seats translating to 10% of the 200. The distribution, in terms of the applicable formula is, as follows:

Seats Occupied per Political Party		Expected delegates from Political Youth Structures	Percentage
BRA	1	6	3.3%
EFF	2	12	6.7%
DA	3	18	10%
ANC	24	144	80%
TOTAL	30	180	100%

Current political parties represented in the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature

The event was planned to start on 23 June 2016 with a Plenary to present feedback on the implementation of the resolutions emanating from the previous Youth Parliaments and this was followed by break away into commissions in accordance with the thematic areas.

The main event was on 24 June 2016 that started at 09h00 with a plenary chaired by Hon Manzini and presentations were made from the youth formations, the various commissions, and a key note address by Hon SPD Skhosana Ka Mahlangu.

Preparatory work and consultation with these youth formations was commenced with, by the officials of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, from 16 - 20 June 2016.

5. PLENARY SESSION OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT, 24 JUNE 2016

Welcoming Address

In his welcoming address to the youth Parliament, Hon. SI Malaza, Chairperson of the Select Committee on Public Accounts, started with the background information and the significance of the commemoration of June 16. His address applauded the youth of 1976 who played a crucial role in making sure that the youth of today enjoy the fruits of democracy. The following was also noted in the welcoming address:

- As young people we need to demonstrate that we understand our responsibilities
- Young people have a task to make South Africa a better place than prior 94
- Youth must understand the task of the current moment and its challenges as well as give meaning to all that was said and done by the leaders who came before them in working for a better South Africa

The welcoming remarks were concluded by an appeal to the young people not to betray the revolution and struggle when they do work in their different communities.

Messages of Support from the Youth Formations

Economic Freedom Fighters

Mr Zweli Malope, EFF youth representative was the first to deliver the message of support and in his speech he indicated that “ *the youth of Mpumalanga are still subjected to high rates of unemployment, high rates of infection with HIV/Aids, high levels of school dropout, teenage pregnancy, poverty and inequalities*” . They also indicated the Youth Parliament’s failure to hold the executive to account through the implementation of resolutions tabled in its previous sittings. He the concluded his speech with an affirmation that “ ... *EFF Youth*

however cautiously supports the 2016 edition of the Mpumalanga youth parliament with the view that it should afford young people of Mpumalanga an opportunity to robustly engage on issues affecting their development and livelihoods towards creating legislation which is binding to the executive and developing oversight mechanism which is inclusive of members of the youth parliament which we believe would hold the executive accountable, enhance youth participation and beneficiation from its outcomes”.

Democratic Alliance

Presenting a message of support Mr Mbuso Kubheka, DA youth representative, acknowledged the struggle waged by the youth of 1976 and expressed their disappointment that the youth of today is still disadvantaged *“The reality is that 70% of our country’s unemployed people are under the age of 35, and in Mpumalanga, more than 41, 1% of young people are unemployed - higher than the national average of 36, 1%”.*

He further touched on a number of issues including the quality of education that was not equal; the creation of sustainable jobs which he said is not attained through *“... the implementation of infrastructure and development programmes aimed at growing our economy, by investing at least 10% of our GDP in infrastructure development, cutting out the corruption that kills our opportunities, as well as incentivises and encourages private sector businesses to employ young people”.* In closing he affirmed their support of the Youth Parliament by urging the government and leadership of South Africa to stop talking but begin to translate the talks into implementable actions.

African National Congress

Mr T Mashele, ANC youth league representative, began his speech by stating that *“ Our presence in this parliament must not be about to lament the past or moan the present and mope bleakly at the future, but rather to correctly diagnose our problems and come with solutions to respond to them. The over 66% of our population expect us gathered here to be ready and aspire to open the eyes, minds and influence the thinking of our society”.*

He then acknowledged that the country just commemorated the 40th anniversary of 16 June 1976 and then made a call for the youth to *“... collectively take a leaf from that generation which has heeded the call by Frantz Fanon that each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it or betray it “.* He then indicated that the 1976 generation has discovered and fulfilled its mission and pleaded with the youth to collectively agree on their mission which they must pursue.

He urged the youth to take advantage of the TVET colleges and Universities to advance their skills and that, as part of their effort, they will continue engage with government to speed up the implementation of a free education up to the 1st degree which as the ANCYL will advance on behalf of the young people.

Referring to the progress thus far, he indicated that *"Today, out of all the established entrepreneurs we have in the country, 33% of them are youth. We have - in our life time observed the work of the National Youth Development Agency in assisting grade 12 learners who did not succeed in matric, by providing support to rewrite their matric"*.

He indicated that the NYDA was intervening in the lives of many out of school young people who are given a second chance to redeem their lives through skills programme.

He also highlighted that, as the ANCYL, they have noted that 46.1% of the young women who are pregnant in the Gert Sibande District are infected with HIV and said *"Our government continue to be a government of hope. The roll out of ARVs has seen our caring government saving more than 350 000 lives"*. While noting the progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, their message remains the same that *"No Condom, nix Mapha; one round - one condom; one person - one partner"*

Joining the call by their Deputy President, Cde Desmond Moela, in emphasising that young people must concentrate on matters that seek to develop and improve their lives and reject all notions that undermine their lives such as "blessers" and "amavuso".

He also mentioned that it is through dialogues and debates that the future of the youth will be shaped, but not the singing and lamenting. In the same breath, he indicated that the ANCYL wishes to express its desire to engage the Legislature in redesigning the Youth Parliament to be a theatre of decision making for the youth of Mpumalanga. Further that the Legislature can set time aside to engage the youth on the form and shape of the future youth parliament.

On behalf of the Youth of the ANC, he wished the Youth Parliament a success and indicated that it must be used as a platform that will provide solutions to the plight of the youth.

Bushbuckridge Residents Association

The youth of the Bushbuckridge Residents Association (BRA) did not show up and thus no message of support was received to that effect.

6. KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Hon. SPD Skhosana ka Mahlangu, the Chairperson of Committees in the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, delivering a keynote he stressed the importance of young people to respect the national symbols of South Africa. He indicated that the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature found it appropriate, for the first time in the history of the sectoral parliaments, to bring the 2016 Youth Parliament to Gert Sibande region; this was a reflection of a truly African World Class Legislature's commitment to strengthening its oversight in a more participatory manner.

He referred to the speech by President JG Zuma when addressing youth recently at Kliptown, he said his speech gave a telling account of the insurmountable contribution and sacrifices made by the generation of youth towards the liberation of South Africa from the apartheid rule. He indicated that the heroism of the students who stood up to the regime as they fought for their rights and the liberation of their country from racial oppression and subjugation.

He touched on immediate cause of the uprising that was started by the introduction of Afrikaans alongside with English as a medium of instruction in African schools; these then contributed to the rejection of the apartheid crime against humanity - it began in Soweto but spread throughout the country. He indicated that scores of the then student's activists went into exile fleeing the police brutality but sadly some, like Tsietsi Mashinini, died in foreign lands, leaving their families in anguish; others went missing like Mbuyisa Makhubu who was captured in the famous picture carrying Hector Petersen.

Giving this brief information background, Hon. Skhosana Ka Mahlangu, appreciated the choice of thematic areas for the 2016 Mpumalanga Youth Parliament as a build up towards the National Youth Parliament organised to be held on 29 – 30 June 2016 in Kliptown, Soweto to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1976 student uprising under the theme **"Following up on our commitment to the Youth"**.

His speech hinted on a number of issues which are summed up and presented, but not limited, in the following paragraphs:

All those who fell in the June 1976 uprisings and those who went to exile in different foreign countries were saluted and appreciated as they charted the way towards a democratic South Africa that the youth of today is benefitting from.

He challenged the youth to channel their energies toward improving themselves and confronting the challenges facing the generation of today's young people; to this he said:

"Whereas the youth of 76 used their energies to mobilize and campaign against apartheid; today's youth should use education, skills and talents to fight poverty, unemployment and mobilize and campaign against crime, drugs and alcohol abuse"

He further encouraged the youth to take education very serious and ensure that they use all the opportunities they have to study as their younger generation would expect them to be their good role models; these requires the youth to master the ability to be good leaders in order to make a meaningful contribution in inspiring them towards:

- Nation building by creating social cohesion,
- Ensuring challenges facing youth are addressed; and
- Improving the capacity of government in relation to service delivery.

He indicated that Poverty and inequality are the heart of priorities set by the National Development Plan (NDP) in order to strive towards their reduction by 2030. Through the NDP initiative the country would be able to build a non-racist, non-sexist democratic society to achieve a better life for all.

- The government is also working hard to deal with educational challenges of the youth by building of new universities in our provinces, and the increment of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme's budget to assist the underprivileged with tertiary funds. It is also aimed at assisting the youth with Artisan skills
- The youth was also encouraged to make education a priority, and to interrogate the issues of drug abuse through the Youth Parliament platform

He then encouraged the support for the campaign and clarion call by COSAS in dealing with the abuse of alcohol and drugs as a serious challenge to the youth, resulting in parents leaving in fear of their children. The youth needs to also take advantage of the international day against drug abuse, which will be on 26 June 2016, to participate in dialogues that are aimed at waging a fight to eradicate these bad habits.

He further called on the youth to use their energies to put a stop on the *blessed* - *blessee* tendencies which seem to pre-occupy the minds of the younger people. These tendencies are bad and can only bring destruction to the dreams of being future leaders,

they should be condemned and the youth should only be assisted to gain skills and acquire those attributes that will be helpful in their adult life.

He urged the Youth to uphold the values of Ubuntu and respect in dealing with social cohesion and discourage the destruction of property as a way of voicing dissatisfaction. As emphasis, he said it is not correct to burn properties to get attention – new and constructive engagements would have to be found.

- Access to land by the youth is still a controversial issue that is characterised by a challenge of lack of funding to enable youth to work the land. There is a need for the NYDA grants in order to stimulate the young people as entrepreneurs. This will encourage the youth to open their own businesses
- Municipalities and the private sector also need to prioritise support for youth businesses
- There is a need for hard questions to be asked as to whether development is inclusive, radical and implementable

In conclusion, he reiterated that the youth of today must ensure that they fulfil the mission that was discovered by the youth of 1976. Then, he implored and encouraged youth to exercise their democratic right by voting for the government of their choice during the upcoming Local Government Elections scheduled on 03 August 2016.

7. COMMISSIONS INPUTS UNDER DIFFERENT THEMATIC AREAS

Emanating from the group discussions held on the 23rd of June 2016, the youth participated in different commissions in tackling the 4 assigned thematic areas. These commissions came up with inputs that were tabled in the plenary on 24th of June 2016 and are reflected and captured as follows:

COMMISSION 1:

Theme: Youth Involvement Towards Quality and Relevant Education

The commission divided its deliberations into matters relating to basic education and those that relate to Higher Education.

The approach was to firstly highlight the challenges and then followed by stating what is recommended as a mechanism to remove the hiccups. Below are the issues raised:

Basic Education

Challenges

- **Early Childhood Development:** The halting of ECD teachers' preparation program and hiring by the government in spite of the question of unavailability of qualified ECD teachers.
- Bridging the gap between technologically advanced schools and the underprivileged by means of provision of ICT programs made available by the government.
- Poor participation of some SGB's in schools and the corrupt conduct that is witnessed.
- Lack of sporting facilities which is the apex and epicenter of lack of transformation in the sporting arena.
- Vandalism, Drug abuse and criminal activities in our schools.
- Poor service and lack of transformation in the scholar transport.

Recommendations

- We recommend that the Mpumalanga department of education must hire qualified ECD teachers' and minimize unqualified teachers in main stream education in the whole province within the next 12 month and escalate the ECD programme to rural areas.
- We recommend a radical delivery in the ITC gap by the provision of Tablets and access to free Wi-Fi to all schools in the townships and those situated in the disadvantaged rural areas.
- South African history must form the integral part our curriculum and be taught as a compulsory subject in all the grades.
- We recommend the co-option of only young adults below the age of 35 years in all schools in all the upcoming SGB's bi-elections starting from August 2016 and a 40% inclusiveness of young people in the 2017 SGB's elections.
- We recommend that the department of education in Mpumalanga province to allocate sufficient budget to build complete schools with all sports facilities needed (e.g Rugby, Tennis, Hockey, Baseball, Cricket etc) and adopt the incomplete schools in every region per financial year to include the sporting codes not catered for, so

that we can close the gap of sporting transformation as over emphasized by the minister of sports.

- We recommend that the department of education in Mpumalanga allocate a budget to provide security for every school in the province in the 2017/2018 financial years for the safety of learner.
- We recommend a solid partnership in both the department of education and transport in making sure that all busses are in a state of road worthy prior to be utilized and also a transformation in youth empowerment on transport contracts.
- We recommend that every municipality should have a Stimulation centres to ensure access of quality education to all including those living with disabilities

Higher Education

Challenges

- Lack of sufficient funding in tuition fees in universities
- Lack of a diverse skills development of different sectors in TVET colleges
- Linking education of the TVET Colleges and private sector for job placement
- Exorbitant higher education fees exclude disadvantaged students from attaining education in institutions of higher learning

Recommendations

- Government must radically engage the private sector for purposes of enhancing funding for education
- Department of Higher Education must ensure that curriculum in higher education respond to the skills needed in private business
- Provide free and compulsory quality education until you obtain a basic degree

The emphasis made was on a principle that “It takes the whole community to raise a child”; expected to get a progress report within 12 months from the youth parliament date.

COMMISSION 2:

Theme: Youth Involvement towards Radical Economic Transformation

As a departure point, the commission began by raising the following issues in relation to the preparations towards hosting Youth Parliament:

- Different youth structures, relevant to the issues of young people, must be engaged beforehand.
- Proposed that Youth Parliament be held, at least, quarterly to enable youth to deal with issue of failure to implement resolutions emanating from youth parliament.
- Proposed that in future, Youth Parliament should be held before the new financial year begins preferably in January, to avoid raising issues when APPs have already been developed.
- The youth formations should be involved in the strategic planning of the different departments so as to make inputs that represent the interests of young people.
- A youth Parliament committee needs to be established to assist with oversight and formulating reports for the next youth Parliament.

The commission then divided its deliberations into three areas, namely: Business, Government departments, and National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). Herein below is the issues raised:

Business

- There are about 204 mines in the area of Gert Sibande district, but they do not play any role in the development of youth. Young people need to be involved and play a role in directing business on what they need. Businesses should speak directly to the issues affecting youth in order to boost and improve their economic growth.
- Business sector in the district is taken over by foreign nationals. Serious and intense transformation needs to happen in order to deal with the issue of business domination of foreign nationals.

- The private sector in practicing the corporate social investment responsibility only concentrates on science students. There is a need for corporate social investment programmes to accommodate everyone without any conditions.
- Big businesses like Shoprite should buy from local farmers and Bakers to sell in their businesses as a way of boosting the local economy of areas where their businesses are operating from
- Administration in mines need to be transformed and not to be forever in the hands of a few white families
- Instead of using tendering processes, the cooperatives must be used in mining companies in order to share the wealth to avoid the benefit of individuals.
- The youth of our province need to get into the industrial business and stop sending raw materials to other provinces so that they can buy it back in a processed form. For instance you send wood to Limpopo where it is made into paper, instead of getting ways of making paper and sell a processed product.
- A new model to be developed to ensure that markets are made available for all cooperatives.

Government Departments

- Municipalities need to put policies in place that will deal with the issue of corporate social investment that will put the young people in the forefront.
- The private sector does not comply with the corporate social investment policies. The new municipal leadership that will come in after the August 03 local government elections need to deal with issues of private sector immediately.
- Municipalities should ensure that they develop and get into memorandum of understanding that will compel the private companies and mining companies to take youth development into consideration when they construct their businesses in the local areas. The memorandum of understanding should also give guidance on what businesses and mines must do for the youth.
- Cooperatives are formed and they exist but are not sustainable. Government needs to make sure that they put programmes in place that will ensure that cooperatives are sustainable, and train the youth on how to run those cooperatives successfully. These cooperatives should be in every region of the province.

- When youth policies are formulated at the local level, officers only do copy and paste from national youth policy. There is a need to formulate policies that are customized to municipal level.
- The Department of Economic Development and Tourism, its relevant agencies and institutions need to make follow up to check how far they implement the youth development policy.
- The Department should ensure that municipalities are informed and public participation is properly conducted before they issue out mineral rights to mining companies.
- Agricultural programmes need to be checked as to how they capacitate and empower those who are beneficiaries of land for farming, for purposes of sustainability.
- There is a high need for training and skilling of farmers. A report to be tabled in the next Youth Parliament indicating the number of people who were trained in using land for business. Farming is important to assist young people to create jobs and become employers
- Farming opportunities and awareness need to be undertaken to help youth not to undermine farming as a career.
- It is recommended that training programmes be conducted for more young people in farming.
- Transformation is very slow to take place; there is a need to intensify the oversight role of the South African Youth Council.
- The youth directorates should also be established in all the municipalities, and be allocated their own budget.
- Government through the Department of Higher learning indicated that there is a shortage in Artisans skills; as a result people from outside the country are used in these areas of expertise. TVET Colleges need to be transformed to do trade tests as a way of increasing Artisans.
- Land redistribution must be speeded up and local economic development should be done by the youth
- Charters have been there since 1994 but there is no indication as to whether they achieve goals for which they were meant to achieve. A report that speaks to progress made through this charters need to be developed. Strengthen the Monitoring and evaluation.

- There is a need to review, and workshop the National Development Plan in order to assist the young people in understanding it as an important working document
- Local economic development managers' employment contracts must be revised to ensure accountability.

National Youth Development Agency

- The National Youth development Agency should have its offices in all the municipalities.
- Parliament to fast track the enactment of the NYDA from Section 75 to 76.
- There is a need for the infusion of implementable programmes for youth as compared to employing youth managers without proper programmes.
- The youth need to be exposed to the operations of the JSE so that they can gain knowledge on how to trade
- Other entities like the MRTT and the Umbaba farm need to at least include young people on their Board of Directors
- The EPWPs to be permanent and not volunteers forever
- There shall no longer be the older people leading the youth programmes and a report should be given in the next Youth Parliament on how many young people have been employed.

COMMISSION 3:

Theme: Youth Involvement in Local Governance and Governance Societal Structures

The commission divided its deliberations into two areas, namely: Youth Status, and Youth in governance structures as indicated below:

Youth status

The commission started by noting that young people in South Africa constitute 66% of the total population of which 72% constitute the unemployed youth. Of the total unemployed youth, 55% don't have matric, 34% have matric, and 11% having a post matric qualification. The commission noted that out of all pregnant women who went for antenatal care in various clinics, 46.1% of them are HIV positive in Gert Sibande District.

The Commission further noted that that about 50% of young people participate in elections locally, provincially and nationally. The commission believes that democracy cannot thrive in South Africa so long as young people remain relegated to spectators of democracy owing to its status.

The commission further believes that the sad status of young people create a high dependence rate of young people exposing the youth to patronage, exploitation and placation in governance opportunities.

The Commission recommends the plenary to resolve that:

- The legislature must ensure that the department of education come with a plan, after consultation with the youth, to ensure that all unemployed young people in the province have Grade 12 or TVET college qualifications,
- The legislature must ensure that, through the budget adjustments, the departments set aside budgets for massive training of young people in various skills as per the skills requirements of the departments,
- The legislature must ensure that the Select Committee on Public Participation, Petition and Members proposals develop programmes that will stimulate the youth involvement and participation in government programmes,
- The Legislature must ensure that all departments and municipalities in the province have internship and learnership programmes to ensure skilling and up-skilling of young people across all districts of the province,
- The legislature must investigate and report back on the allegations that certificates issued by MRTT and Gert Sibande TVET College to its trainees are not accredited by SAQA and also ensure that those trainees are identified and issued with properly accredited certificates,
- The legislature must ensure that Public Works, and other departments that have EPWP programmes, permanently absorb those EPWP workers,
- The legislature should encourage government departments and parastatals to insource all outsourced services,
- The legislature, must ensure that the 2016/17 Annual Performance Plans of departments have Bursary Allocations for young people,
- The legislature must ensure that government departments and municipalities have youth sections properly budgeted for to increase youth programmes, and

- The Legislature must ensure that government implement youth parliament previous resolution of ensuring that NYDA has offices in all local municipal offices.

Youth in Governance Structures

The commission has noted the absence of youth in major structures of governance and organs of self-governance. The commission has noted that the legislature and government has no MPLs and Members of Executive Council, HODs, DGs and HODs that are within the youth ages of 14 to 35 years. The committee further noted the absence of youth in key strategic structures of governance and recommend to the plenary to resolve that the legislature must ensure that:

- The MEC of Health develops a policy that will ascertain that 40% of all clinic committees, hospital boards, District Councils and health forums have young people,
- The premier must ensure that 40% of board members of MEGA, MTPA, MRTT, Liquor Authority Board and other boards have young people,
- The MEC for education must design a policy to encourage the co-option of young people with necessary skills in SGBs across the province,
- The MEC for CoGTA must develop policy guidelines which will ensure that 60% of all ward committee members are young people with a mixture of skills and capabilities,
- The MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation must ensure that 60% of all members of sporting federations in the province have young people,
- The MEC for Finance and Economic Development must ensure that departments use at least 40% of youth cooperatives and youth business ventures,
- The MEC for Agriculture, Land Administration and Environment must ensure that all unused government land is given to the fortune 40 programme and that land must be leased to young people involved in agricultural programs,
- Both the MEC for Economic Development and the MEC for Agriculture , Land Administration and Environment must ensure that there is a market for the products of fortune 40 programme,
- The premier must ensure that 40% of members of the Audit Committees, across all departments and municipalities, have young people with requisite skills, and
- The premier must ensure that 40% of all senior management and top management officials in departments and municipalities are young people, and that all officials from the age of 60 years and above resign from their positions.

The Commission recommends that the first progress report on the implementation of this youth parliament recommendations be on the 30th of September 2016, the second progress on the 31 of March 2017 and the third be on the sitting of the next Youth Parliament.

COMMISSION 4:

Theme: Youth Involvement Towards More Socially Cohesive Communities

The commission prefaced their discussion with an attempt to give a definition of what the theme is all about which is presented as follows:

“Social cohesion is defined as the degree of social integration and inclusion in communities and society at large, and the extent to which mutual solidarity finds expression among individuals and communities”

In terms of this definition, a community or society is cohesive to the extent that the inequalities, exclusions and disparities based on ethnicity, gender, class, nationality, age, disability or any other distinctions which engender divisions distrust and conflict are reduced and/or eliminated in a planned and sustained manner. The community members and citizens are active participants, working together for the attainment of shared goals, designed and agreed upon to improve the living conditions for all.

According to Statistics South Africa (StatsSA), the youth population grew from 18,5 million to 19,6 million between 2009 and 2014. In 2015, the subsequent population growth meant that by 2015 the working-age population stood at 35,8 million of which 19,7 million (55,0%) were youth and 16,1 million (45,0%) were adults.

The growing youth presents the country with a number of challenges such as exclusion in the economic, social and political participation and thus create anomie or apathy amongst communities and the county at large. The crisis of youth unemployment deprives young people of the opportunity to secure independent housing or the accommodations necessary for the establishment of families and participation in society. Unemployment creates a wide range of social ills and young people are particularly susceptible to its damaging effects: the lack of skills, low self-esteem, marginalization, impoverishment and social exclusion.

Furthermore youth unemployment can lead to increased vulnerability among young people to drugs and crime, which leads to further social exclusion.

Unemployment can expose youth to greater risks of lower wages, repeated periods of unemployment, longer unemployment, and income poverty, and thereby lead to the risk of life-long social exclusion.

Challenges

The following are challenges that have become the barriers of social cohesive communities and society as a whole:

- Societies have become more diverse and this have created ethnic divisions, discrimination based on skin pigmentation and xenophobia
- The process of economic globalization introduce new social pressures and Inequalities
- Social and economic exclusion
- Discrimination and inequality
- Lack of access to public services
- Racism and discrimination
- Marginalization and exclusion on the grounds of culture, race, gender and disabilities
- Migration and globalization
- Victimization becomes a barrier of social cohesion.
- Lack of Sporting facilities in our public schools particularly in townships and rural areas promotes racial discrimination, lack of self esteem
- Social ills such as crimes and drug abuse in the communities
- Police corruption plays a critical role in perpetrating negative impact on social cohesion.

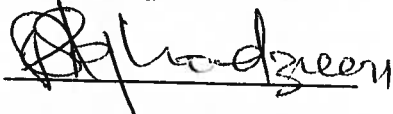
Recommendations

- The government must review the justice system and foreign relations policy in order to regulate immigrants and refugees in the country

- The government must develop economic policies that allows the country to compete with global Market
- Strengthen language policy in all sectors including institutions of higher learning that promote tolerance;
- The Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation must take the function of building sport infrastructure and increase access and utilization by communities;
- The Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation must have an inclusive integrated approach on its Mass Participation programmes;
- The Department of Social Development must ensure that all communities have functional Youth Centres, and Youth Managers/Coordinators have programmes to address social apathy amongst racial groups (Whites, Indians, Coloured and Blacks);
- The newly built school infrastructure by the Department of Education must include all sporting facilities to encourage sports at a tender age;
- The policy on Inclusive education must be implemented in all schools to ensure disable youth do receive education; develop sense of belonging for them and to create space for their acceptance by the society.
- Government must encourage the training of the youth in sectors of the economy through institutions of higher learning, TVET colleges and accredited SITAS
- Youth Centres and the NYDA offices must be available in all municipalities
- Mainstreaming of youth matters to ensure economy is prickled down to young men, women and youth with disabilities

8. CONCLUSION

On behalf of the Select Committee, the chairperson wishes to thank all the Honourable Members of the Legislature, the Legislature support staff and all role players who contributed in the preparations towards the successful hosting of the 2016 Youth Parliament.



16/08/2016

**HON JL NGHONDZWENI
CHAIRPERSON: SELECT COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, PETITIONS AND MEMBERS'
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

DATE