

2011

North West Provincial
Legislature

Public Participation Unit

**[NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL
LEGISLATURE YOUTH
PARLIAMENT 2011 REPORT]**

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1. INTRODUCTION

It has been 35 years since the youth of South Africa marched in all parts of the country on a lonely journey for a better education, a transformed South Africa. It the efforts the 1976 youth that gave birth to the idea of June 16 as youth day and June as a youth month.

The debates and discussions was like a rebirth of 1976 youth spirit as North West Provincial Legislature gathered young people from across the province to take part in the 2011 youth parliament. Deliberations and debates were centered around the theme “**Economic growth through job creation**”. This report looks at all issues raised during the 2011 youth parliament.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To award the youth an opportunity to raise their challenges and recommendations thereof.
- To allow the Members of the Provincial Legislature to perform an oversight role on youth related issued as raised during the 2011 sectoral parliament.

3. TOPICS

1. Creation of decent jobs for Youth
2. Skills Development
3. Role of young people in developmental agenda

4. ISSUES RAISED DURING YOUTH PARLIAMENT PER DEPARTMENT

4.1. OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

- National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) strategy must be reviewed.
- NYDA is not visible/accessible to Youth especially in rural areas.
- NYDA programmes do not benefit all the Youth since they don't even know their needs due to lack of interaction with the youth.

- Role of NYDA is to address Youth issues but they don't even attend youth events. E.g. Youth Parliament.

4.2. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

- Expanded Public Works (EPWP) program policy must be reviewed.
- EPWP does not provide them with decent job opportunities/skills, because cleaning of streets and grass cutting cannot be considered as skill transfer and they are hired on casual basis which does not offer a sustainable income to them. Cutting grass for example does not offer young people employable opportunities at the end of the program.
- EPWP program exposes people to exploitation since it is implemented through tendering process. The service providers receive a lot of money but only pay stipends as little as R900.00 per month.

4.3. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural farming must be seen as vehicle that drives the economy of the North West Province.

- Department of Agriculture must offer the youth who are and those that want to participate in farming necessary support to ensure that they succeed.
- Department must insure that land is accessible to the youth in order to encourage them to get involve in large scale farming activities and offer them enough training and monitoring.
- There are many intermediaries/ middle man who benefit more than beneficiaries for funding.
- No feasibility study to ascertain whether or not land is suitable for growing crops as intended.
- Department must assist young farmers to have access to market.

4.4. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- There is a need and a high demand for practical learning/experimental therefore the department must build more technical high schools and FET colleges across the province.
- Department must build schools with laboratories, libraries and computer centers.
- Computer skills must be compulsory from primary level.
- Old school building must be renovated.
- Career guidance must be improved at high school level.
- There must be conditional admission to assist financially disadvantaged to have access to tertiary education.

4.5. DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS ARTS AND CULTURE

- Department of Sports Arts and Culture must develop young artist so that art can create job opportunity.
- Department must build arts facilities in North West Province. E.g. artists must not travel to Gauteng to record music or produce music disc.

4.6. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- Funding for NGO's must be increased to enable them to increase awareness campaigns. E.g NAPWA, Love Life and Ke Moja.
- Rehabilitation centers must be available in all municipalities.
- Circumcision must be done at all local clinics.

4.7. DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

- Each municipality must have Youth desk that addresses youth issues like unemployment.
- Each local municipality must have community computer center.

- Illegal circumcision schools must be banned, therefore heavy fine must be enforced on people who operates illegal circumcision schools.

4.8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT

- Department must fund and support Youth manufacturing companies.
- Art manufacturing must be funded and promoted locally so that it can create jobs and eradicate poverty. Local art production can also be used as tourist attraction tool which on its own will boost the economy of the province.
- Each funding must have a proper monitoring system that will ensure that companies and Youth initiatives are productive.
- Local community must be given first preference when employing people to work in mines only people with specialized skills can be recruited from outside.
- Department of Mineral and Energy must train people before they get employed.
- Government must invest in heavy machinery to assist people who intend to mine.
- Exportation of raw material should be limited and monitored
- The province need to have the companies that will be able to refine mineral and those companies should be owned by young people.

4.9. CROSS CUTTING ISSUES ALL DEPARTMENTS

- Departments must develop programs that will create decent job opportunities for youth.
- Departments must make sure that they appoint/absorb youth at the end of their learnership / internship programs.
- Departments must monitor all funded project to ensure that they are sustainable.

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- All departments must ensure that Youth have access to information on initiatives intending to create decent job opportunities.

5. CASE REPORTED (PETITION)

Mr. Rathebe Mojaki reported that their company (Toro Ke Bophelo) has for the past ten months tried to purchase piece of land from Matlosana Municipality. They are requesting the legislature's intervention by speeding up purchasing process so that their company can start to operate.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- North West Youth Economic Development Forum must be established to address youth economic related issues.
- This forum must not be politically driven and all municipalities must be represented.

8. RESPONSES BY MPL

Members of the North West Provincial Legislature made a commitment to:

- Ensure that young people join the mainstream of economic activity in the Province.
- Economy of North West Province is able to create jobs for youth.
- Build diversified economy to cover areas of agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure development, mining and engineering.
- Economic development in the province should be rural bias and for the most vulnerable.
- Develop a special program that will prioritize the youth and in particular young women and the disable.
- Build and sustain youth cooperatives.
- Ensure that Youth Development Agency is empowered to finance youth economic programs.
- Enhance tourism industry through availing opportunities to the youth.

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- Ensure skills development takes place from early childhood stages.
- Effectively address Rural Industrialization that focus on infrastructure development, electrification, bulk water supply, HIV/Aids education and prevention and job creation.

Conclusion

The South African democratic order is by its orientation a participatory constitutional democracy. Although the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act N0. 108 of 1996) mandates the Legislature to conduct oversight over the executive and facilitate public participation, the latter responsibility has constituted the major preoccupation of the South African Legislatures.

In executing its Constitutional mandate the North West Legislature hosted Youth Parliament that saw four hundred and fifty young lions coming from all four districts of the North West Province assembling in the Legislature chamber and robustly engaging on issues that economically affect them with a hope that they will be dealt with to address the imbalances of the past. The young people have spoken and it is for the Legislature to find solution to the challenges raised and attend to the recommendation made by the youth.

Botlhale jwa phala botswa phalaneng.