

**DRAFT SOUTH AFRICA COUNTRY REPORT FOR THE FIFTH AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2006**

ACRONYMS

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|---|-----------|
| 1. National Youth Commission | (NYC) |
| 2. Umsobomvu Youth Fund | (UYF) |
| 3. Sector Education and Training Authority | (SETA) |
| 4. National Student Financial AID Scheme | (NSFAS) |
| 4. Adult Based Education | (ABET) |
| 5. Labour Force Survey | (LFS) |
| 6. Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative in South Africa | (ASGI-SA) |
| 7. South African Youth Council | (SAYC) |
| 8. Government Development Strategy | (GDS) |
| 9. National Youth Service Programme | (NYSP) |
| 10. Black Economic Empowerment | (BEE) |
| 11. Integrated Development Plans | (IDPs) |
| 12. Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises | (SMMEs) |
| 13. South African Local Government Authority | (SALGA) |
| 14. National Strategy on Sustainable Development | (NSSD) |

The Fifth African Development Forum South Africa Country Report

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper provides an overview of South Africa's position on the three themes identified for discourse at the Fifth African Development Forum 'Youth and Leadership under the 21st Century'. The three themes are: Youth and Economic Development, Youth and Social Development, and Youth and Political Development. Each of these themes has separate sub themes which are addressed in the paper.

2. On Youth and Economic Development

2.1 EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS

Current State

- ❖ There has been an increase in primary school enrolment which is at 95.5% while the enrolment at secondary level stands at 85%.
- ❖ There has been a decline in learner-to-facility ratio from 48:1 to 38:1 per class.
- ❖ The male to female enrolment ratio shows that there are more girls than boys enrolled in schools.
- ❖ However, there remains a challenge where many young people are still faced with the challenge of furthering their studies, due to financial constraints. This affects more than 40.7% of youth, especially African Youth.

Proposed Interventions

- Streamlined school curricula that builds on the norms and values of our society as encapsulated in the Constitution, producing learners who are the defenders of democracy and rule of law;
- Streamlined schooling programme from early childhood to tertiary education, integrating childhood needs, teenage life environment, early adulthood environment, life-skills and the demands of the labour market environment;

- Introduction of career guidance as a mandatory subject in all the schools in conjunction with the private sector;
- The transformation and recapitalization of the Further Education and Training Colleges;
- Synchronization of learning between school level and tertiary sectors
- The Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAS) should upscale the implementation of learnerships
- Transformation of Higher Education, redesigning of new curricula, and the revising of the funding formula to recognize the recapitalization of the historically black institutions with regard to infrastructure and funding of research capacity and development,
- Increasing of funding of NSFAS (National Student Financial Aid Scheme) to increase the number of beneficiaries, and the provision of bursaries by both the public and private sector entities;
- Proactively engage government and the private sector to collectively commit to the implementation of a skills development programme that seeks to address both the quantitative and qualitative skill needs of the economy;
- Massive implementation of e-education as conceptualized by the Presidential National Youth Commission on Information Society and Development should be located as part the Education and Training Strategic Thrust due to its content focus, which is on education and training;
- Increase the number of youth enrolled and completing Adult Based Education and Training (ABET) programmes and accessing further learning or economic opportunities;
- Increase the number of youth with higher education volunteering time and services as ABET Educators.

2.2 YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Current Status

South Africa's Census 2001 reflected the following key findings for youth unemployment in South Africa then:

- ❖ 70% of the people in the poorest quintile of the population were below the age of 35;
- ❖ Youth comprised about 70% of the unemployed, 46% of the working population and 33% of the self-employed;
- ❖ The official unemployment figure on the expanded definition of the unemployed (i.e. including those who have given up looking for work) was 6,96 million, or 37 per cent of the potentially economically active;
- ❖ Most of the unemployed youth live in households with a monthly income of less than R800 a month;
- ❖ Youth unemployment is highest in the 25-29 age group;
- ❖ The numbers of unemployed young women is more than that of unemployed young men;
- ❖ The economic participation of youth differs by age, race, gender, location and education. African youth with primary and less than secondary education tend to be in the majority of the economically inactive population. The economic participation of African youth is low between the ages of 16 and 19, and peaks between the ages of 20 to 25, and declines as age approaches 25 to 34. The economic participation of white youth increases with age but tends to decline for the 25 to 34 year age group. Female youth predominate among the economically inactive population at ages below 20 years of age;
- ❖ 67% of the self-employed earning less than the Supplemental Living Level were aged between 15 and 24, the majority of whom were young women living in rural areas

Recent surveys show that there has been some improvement in the unemployment rate, though not laterally. According to Statistics South Africa's Labour Force Survey (LFS) for March 2005, unemployment in the country stood at 4,2 million and this is slightly less compared to the same

period in 2004 where it stood at 4,4 million. Unemployment is arguably South Africa's major scourge.

South Africa is a young country with nearly 40% of its people falling between 14 and 35 years of age. Youth unemployment is high when the age groups 15-24 and 25-34 are combined, and constitutes about 75 percent of the total unemployed persons according to the above study. This reflects that youth unemployment is a critical problem in South Africa.

The LFS also indicates that if race is taken into consideration, the majority of the unemployed youth are young Black Africans. Black African unemployment is higher than unemployment for the other groups across the different age groups. Black Africans constitutes 88 % of youth unemployment, while Coloureds, Indians and Whites account for 8%, 2% and 2% respectively.

Youth unemployment is caused by the lack of skills among young people and Government in attempting to address youth unemployment has introduced a plethora of training opportunities for youth including Learnership programmes and the National Youth Service programme. Learnerships are work based training programmes which combines theory as taught by the academic institutions and practice from the industry. Learners leave the learnership programmes with credits that contribute towards some specific qualification as well as much needed work experience.

The National Youth Service programme on the other hand provides the learner with both the credits towards some qualification, work experience as well as an opportunity to provide national service within their immediate community.

The National Youth Commission (NYC) has also lobbied for the establishment of the Umsobomvu Youth Fund (UYF) to drive youth economic participation in South Africa. The aim with the UYF was to provide soft loans to young people who were grossly disadvantaged by apartheid, and an opportunity to lay foundations for their economic lives.

- ❖ About 1.7 Million new jobs were created since 1994.
- ❖ There has been an establishment of institutions for financing and supporting youth economic participation. These included Khula Finance Enterprise, Ntsika (now collectively submerged into a new state institution called State Economic Development Agency) and the UYF.
- ❖ The challenge remains however for youth to access the services from these institutions. The requirements, including securities and collaterals do not make it easier for youth people to access services from these institutions. The services are also not necessarily available to youth in areas regarded as disadvantages such as rural areas.

The NYC is in the process of developing a Youth Economic Participation Strategy. The essence of this strategy will be to ensure youth involvement in the Government Development Strategy (GDS) and the Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa (ASGISA) are aligned with Government planning. Such a strategy will also complement the processes of developing Youth Enterprise Strategy developed by a private consultant in consultation with the NYC, UYF and the South African Youth Council (SAYC). This strategy will become one of the inputs into the Small Business Development Strategy of Government.

The NYC further participated in the Youth Chamber of Mining Project. This is a joint initiative between the Youth Chamber of Mines, the NYC and the Department of Minerals and Energy Affairs. The initiative is mainly geared towards ensuring youth participation in the business side of mining as well as other careers in the field. The NYC's involvement ensured that youth are represented in the capacitation plans for people involved in mining, including the leadership council.

The Department of Agriculture has created a platform for youth participation in the establishment of a Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) charter and strategies in Agriculture. This process culminated in the last consultative youth workshop held in Bloemfontein, Free State in 2005. The National Youth Commission was responsible for mobilizing youth into participating into the project while working hand in hand with Umsobomvu Youth Fund and South African Youth Council.

The Youth Farm project, a joint initiative between the National Youth Commission, Umsobomvu Youth Fund, the Land Bank, Department of Land Affairs and the Department of Agriculture was mainly aimed at encouraging youth participation in farming. It is part of the government's broader land reform process. This programme is a hard skills programme that involves mentorship for the young people involved in the projects in different provinces. This project is still being piloted with some bottlenecks hampering its full implementation.

The most significant intent of Government on youth developmental funding was through the creation of UYF, which was established in January 2001 as a programme rather than as an institution with the mandate of promoting youth economic participation for South Africans between the ages of 18 and 35. In fulfilling this mandate the UYF developed a plethora of programmatic responses to the youth economic participation issues. UYF was not created to become a panacea for all youth funding challenges in South Africa. Its creation did not mean that all the other endeavours at funding development in general in South Africa were to be abandoned. The following flagship programmes were implemented by UYF:

- ❖ Enterprise Finance Programme
- ❖ Sme Finance Programme
- ❖ Micro and Co-Operative Finance:
- ❖ Business Development Services
- ❖ Skills And Development Transfer

Proposed interventions

- An all-round incubation programme for small business should be the basis in our endeavour to encourage small business development and cooperatives in the country. State financial and support agencies should support the incubation programme from the business idea, business development, and manufacturing and ultimately to market identification and access.

- Youth development should take place at the local level. Municipalities have a responsibility through their Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and budgets to ensure that youth has access to business opportunities and support programmes;
- ASGI-SA should bring youth in the centre of its projects through its deliberate programme of skills development in the critical areas of engineering and town planning and business support programme. It must allocate a bulk of its project contracts to youth business and ensure their mentorship;
- ASGI-SA should ensure that State Owned Enterprises significantly indulge and premise their business plans on the agenda of job creation, skills development and youth emancipation;
- Sector Transformation Charters should spell out youth entrepreneurship and business development. Clear commitment to ensure allocation of percentage of ownership and employment, skills development and access to capital in all the transactions that take place in the sector should form part of the principles of the charters.
- Sector Education Training Authorities (SETAs) should have the responsibility to monitor the implementation of learnership, from level one until certification;
- SETAs should also monitor actual movement of learners from learnership to permanent employment to ensure that companies do absorb those who enroll with learnerships;
- Initiatives aimed at building capacity among young people on areas of Economic participation and Investment should be strengthened and be broadened.
- Provincial youth funds should be consolidated into a new national fund in the new national institution for youth development, to assist young people in business who have problems with collaterals.
- The issue of Buying Locally produced products should be moved from International Relations, where it was initially covered, to Economic Participation and Investment. A strategy should further be developed to give more meaning to this issue.
- Capacity to roll out EPWP should be strengthened, particularly at local government level.

- Exit opportunities should be integrated as a compulsory feature of all Youth Development Programmes. Particularly Economic Participation and Investment programmes like, learnerships, EPWP, etc
- Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act should be amended to benefit the Youth as a specific and deliberate part of the Historically Disadvantaged Individuals Component.

2.3 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Current status

Due to the repressive past, there exists in South Africa an information gap that becomes more apparent when one examines the status of the vulnerable sectors of which youth form s a group. It is important to use ICT as a tool to reduce this information gap to facilitate youth becoming active citizens of the knowledge economy. Furthermore, South Africa has a rich culture and a lot of indigenous information and history which must be preserved, in order to uphold our identity in the Global Society.

It is therefore recommended by a variety of gatherings such as WSIS Youth Caucus, NEPAD Youth Limpopo Declaration that the youth need to play a leading role in the growth and social development of Africa as a whole, and to influence positively the global ICT developmental agenda. Further, there is a need to empower youth activists to form a network that will actively push for faster development of policy and ICT infrastructure in Africa.

Proposed Interventions on ICT

- Intensify Interactive Television and Radio. A Programme/Channel (dedicated to Youth) where youth will interact with presenters, specialists and youth counselors in real time. 12 languages should be used as a media of communication. And youth should create content into this programmes and this will open up employment prospects to youth and create interest in learning health issues;

- Workplace placement(software development in particular) for unemployed Youth to get into the mainstream employment;
- Involve academic institutions to upgrade their curricula to be relevant to the graduates they produce and to be absorbed in the work environment e.g. assisting the Department of Health with developing systems that are relevant, effective and efficient;
- Programme on Cyber lab connectivity to increase communication in schools
- Programme to encourage Government Departments to increase Toll Free lines and usage (to encourage youth to talk about issues affecting their daily lives)
- Government should use innovative means for access points. i.e. community centers, Libraries, Clinics, Schools, all forms of media etc
- All government information needs to be electronic
- All government services needs to be interactive
- All Consultation processes on policy formulation should be provided through ICTs
- All Consultation processes on Provincial Growth and Development Strategy formulation processes and other related planning processes should be provided through ICTs
- All Consultation processes on IDP formulation processes and other related planning processes should be provided through ICTs
 - Young people should avoid being indebted
 - Promote partnerships between young ICT entrepreneurs
 - Borrowed funds should be utilized effectively
 - Encourage savings by young people
 - UYF should enhance its capital bridging programme for SMMEs who have secured tenders
 - Ensure effective delivery by Khula (Consolidation of Finance institution)
 - Other alternative sources of funding should be explored by young people, e.g. Land Bank, NEF, IDC etc
 - Development and promotion of Youth ICT SMME sector specific funding institutions
 - These sector specific funders should also provide ICT sector specific coaching/advise and information

2.4 HEALTH, HIV/AIDS AND MIGRATION

Current Status

South Africa has introduced free access to health care for the benefit of women (young women included) and all children under the ages of six. There has also been an introduction of an Integrated Nutrition Programme benefiting young people at schools (89% of Children/ learners). There has also been an introduction a Comprehensive Plan for HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, and care and support Programme. This has resulted in the decrease in numbers of young people being infected by the disease. The country also distributes condoms en-masse for free as part of the prevention strategy. According to Santis *et al.* in Sader *et al.* (2004:15)¹ young people are at the centre of a double jeopardy. On the one hand they live in a world of increasing poverty, low levels of education, and high levels of unemployment. On the other hand, 50% of all new HIV infections are among young people aged 15 to 24. According to Alternative Information and Development Centre² in South Africa in 2001, around 5.3 million people were living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa of which 10.2% were youth. This document further stated that youth under the age of 25 constituted at least 58% of all the people infected in 2001 world wide. In 2003, there were 1 100 000 HIV/AIDS orphans in South Africa³.

Apartheid system in South Africa was a breeding ground for the creation of massive migration patterns amongst the South African population. As was reflected in the recently held HIV/AIDS conference in South Africa, the migrant labour system and its disruptive impact on family life over generations has undermined the dignity of people housed in migrant labour hostels. It is a major contributor to the size and shape of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in our society. Denial of the rights of migrants to dignified lives with their families made them vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases. It turned men into conduits of the infection to their families⁴.

¹ Sader, F (ed); Weideman, M; Santis, W; Whitman; C.V; Roseblum, L; Rosati, M; & Palakurthi, P. 2004. **Youth Development Journal: Special Edition on Youth Employment Opportunities**. 16th edition.

² Alternative Information and Development Centre. 2005. **Sexism, Youth and HIV in South Africa**. available: www.aids.org.za/

³ HIV insite. 2003. HIV/AIDS in South Africa. Available: <http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/global>

⁴ Available: http://www.sa-aidsconference.com/HIV_7_JUNE2005.doc

Van Donk⁵ reflects that young adults (15-49 years old), but specifically women in their twenties and men in their late twenties-early thirties, are the majority of sexually active people and also the majority of migrants. This exposes the young people mostly to migration factors, including HIV/AIDS.

Crush⁶ identifies the following reasons for the post apartheid increase in migration in South Africa:

- The collapse of apartheid brought new opportunities and reasons for migration across borders within the region. Migrants from neighbouring countries and further afield see South Africa as a new place to trade, shop, seek essential services, work and seek asylum.
- South Africa's formal trade with the rest of the continent has exploded with goods carried in the main by long-distance truckers. Informal sector cross-border trading has also expanded dramatically since the end of apartheid.
- There has been significant growth in levels of urbanization in South African cities. One consequence has been the displacement of the rural poor to the towns.
- The new gendering of migrancy. Women are becoming considerably more mobile, migrating for formal and informal work in ever-growing numbers and traveling more frequently for a variety of social and other reasons.
- The mining industry persists with its regional single-sex contract labour system but there are much higher levels of social contact between migrants miners and people living near the mines.

In the same breath, Crush⁷ believes that "... the vulnerabilities to HIV of people (migrant and non-migrant, mobile and relatively immobile) associated with this changing regime of migrancy are

⁵ Van Donk, M. 2002. Hiv/Aids And Urban Poverty In South Africa Prepared by Mirjam van Donk for the South African Cities Network (August 2002). Available: <http://www.isandla.org.za/papers/AIDS%20and%20urban%20poverty%20in%20South%20Africa.pdf>

⁶ Crush, J. Spaces Of Vulnerability: Migration And HIV/AIDS In South Africa. Available: <http://www.queensu.ca/samp/sampresources/samppublications/policyseries/policy24.htm>

⁷ Crush, J. Spaces Of Vulnerability: Migration And HIV/AIDS In South Africa. Available: <http://www.queensu.ca/samp/sampresources/samppublications/policyseries/policy24.htm>

poorly understood. The evidence seems to suggest that migrants and migrant households in town and countryside are particularly at risk. So too are the residents of non-migrant communities with whom migrant workers interact on a daily basis.”

Van Donk⁸ believes that there are various ways in which poverty facilitates the transmission of HIV/AIDS. For example, evidence suggests that there is a correlation between levels of education, fertility and condom use (sic). This shows that those with higher levels of education are more able to prevent risk of HIV transmission. Poverty, particularly income poverty, also forces people to engage in survival strategies that put them at risk of HIV infection. Urban areas often host a variety of people from different social, cultural, religious, economic and political backgrounds. The interaction with people from different backgrounds, coupled with the distance from traditional forms of influence and control, and the possibility to remain invisible and anonymous (possibly combined with the financial ability to adopt different lifestyles), can result in a change in social norms, values and practices, including those in relation to sexual behaviour (Van Donk⁹).

In the fight against HIV/AIDS the National Youth Commission introduced a largely successful Young Positive Living Ambassadors programme in four provinces, **viz:** Kwazulu Natal, the Free State, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. This was a peer counseling mechanism aimed at involving young people in the battle against the scourge of HIV and AIDS. Young people could associate with these positive ambassadors as they came from their own communities.

Proposed interventions

- Increase levels of investment in health infrastructure particularly in rural areas
- Train and deploy youth to counseling programmes for preventable and curable (Tuberculosis) diseases, as well as terminal diseases such as cancer, and diabetes and HIV/Aids in hospices and in home-based care

⁸ Van Donk. M. 2002. Hiv/Aids And Urban Poverty In South Africa Prepared by Mirjam van Donk for the South African Cities Network (August2002). Available:

<http://www.isandla.org.za/papers/AIDS%20and%20urban%20poverty%20in%20South%20Africa.pdf>

⁹ Van Donk. M. 2002. Hiv/Aids And Urban Poverty In South Africa Prepared by Mirjam van Donk for the South African Cities Network (August2002). Available:

<http://www.isandla.org.za/papers/AIDS%20and%20urban%20poverty%20in%20South%20Africa.pdf>

- Strengthen the Abstinence, Be faithful, and Condomise (ABC) prevention strategy
- Campaign for access to primary health care in the sector with reduced costs
- Recruit and train youth as Community Health Workers, particularly in the rural areas
- Introduce programmes on dangers of substance abuse at an early stage in institutions such as learning centres, sport, cultural and entertainment sectors to reach young people who are out of schools
- Reorientate and re-skill health workers in health care centers to be sensitive to youth related challenges and needs
- The National Youth Development Agency must engage the Department of Health nationally and provincially to retain qualified doctors and nurses. The programme to make health accessible to all by integrating youth into the health sector as trained health workers;
- All health centres should have a youth friendly section to allow young people to talk about challenges they have with sexuality, and HIV and Aids issues without feeling intimidated

2.5 Environment and Sustainable livelihood

Current Status

Lack of meaningful participation of young people in international processes on the development of environmental and sustainable development conventions and protocols is an issue for serious concern.

Illegal exploitation of marine and natural resources by young people due to high levels of unemployment and poor environmental education is also one of the concerns.

Lack of uptake by young black people of career opportunities in the environmental field has meant that environmental management expertise and skills within this demographic sector need to be raised.

Uncoordinated approach to the involvement of youth in environmental processes/programmes by lead departments needs interventions.

Youth participation in the economic aspects of the environmental management processes in South Africa should be enhanced through a deliberate stake on bio-fuel beneficiation processes.

Proposed interventions

- Upscale the environmental education initiatives amongst young people to ensure that they understand their rights and responsibilities in relation to the environment
- Strengthen the partnership between the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and NYC to enhance youth participation on the Status of the Environment Report and the implementation of the National Strategy on Sustainable Development (NSSD)
- Lead departments within the environmental sector (Departments of Agriculture, Land Affairs, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Water Affairs and Forestry) should develop an Integrated Strategy towards coordinating interventions directed in the participation of youth in the environmental sector.

2.6 Participation in national economic policy decision making

Current Status

In February 2000, the National Youth Commission and the then Ntsika Enterprise Promotion Agency issued a strategy: A National Strategy to Promote Economic Participation by Young People¹⁰ with the following objectives:

- To increase the net number, variety and quality of employment opportunities available to young people.
- To increase the net number of young people engaged in productive and profitable self-employment ventures, which provide a safe and sustainable work environment.
- To address the specific concerns, needs and opportunities facing young unemployed women and men, with special attention being given to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable.

¹⁰ National Youth Commission and Ntsika Enterprise. 2000. A National Strategy to Promote Economic Participation by Young People.

The above were to be augmented by the following strategies:

- Employment Strategies
- Enterprise Strategies and
- Unemployment strategies.

3. Youth and Social Development

3.1 SPORT ARTS AND CULTURE

Current status

There is no doubt that sport, arts and culture are activities of the young people in the main, and play a major role in building the country's social fibre. There must be commitment to engage and to fight for the transformation of sport, arts and culture industry.

Twelve years into democracy, racism still remains a sore point in the march to sport unity, art and cultural design and production. Equal access is still denied black players, actors, writers, producers and publishers who still constitute a negligible component of the industry.

Racist attitudes and practices in rugby, cricket and other Olympiad codes must give way to new ethos that embraces the spirit of national patriotism. Sport, Art and Culture have overgrown the traditional trend of being entertainment, but have become wealth creators. They present the ever available opportunities for the youth to create a better living, wealth and broaden friendship across racial lines, ethnic divide and beyond the frontiers of South Africa. Most of the current initiatives on de-racializing of sports have a narrow focus towards popular sporting codes like soccer and rugby. This excludes other sporting codes and there is a need to turn this situation around.

Most young people who are involved in the Sports, Arts and Culture sector often fail to see it as an economic participation and investment issue. There is a need for opportunities to be created for

young people to be able to utilize their involvement in the sports, arts and culture sector as a means for income generation (sport entrepreneurship). There remains a need to expressly speak about how Arts and Culture should also be positioned as an economic participation and income generating activity. There are very few opportunities that exist in the arts and culture sector, which are deliberately targeted at young people as beneficiaries in the forms of youth arts festivals.

There are serious problems of infrastructure and facilities in townships and villages for young people to train and to harness their skills in Sports, Arts and Culture.

There are very few young people who are involved in indigenous games. There is a need to intensify the campaigns and initiatives for the promotion of indigenous games and cultural conservation activities. Issue of indigenous language and culture should be promoted, particularly focusing mainly on the role of the media and national broadcaster.

Proposed Interventions

- All sports bodies are transformed to reflect the demographics of the country in 2010;
- South African Sports Coordinating Committee ensures that all sports codes establish professional sports academies to enhance performance and scientific approach to the game in 2010;
- Ensure that the academies establish satellite branches in all provinces by 2014;
- Ensure SARU extends the Super 14 franchise to all provinces in 2012;
- The Department of Sports ensures the introduction of different sporting codes, i.e. rugby, cricket, swimming, golf, tennis in 50% of schools in each province by 2012;
- Ensure South Africa Football Association takes the issue of football development serious, conducts coaching clinics in the schools and monitor the standards of football fields used in the townships and villages,
- Department of Arts and Culture employs the expertise of the National Arts Council to advance art creation in the schools, establish art activities that youth are engaged in different communities, in partnership with municipalities ensure the promotion of these activities, employ a deliberate programme to identify youth with potential and assist them

- in the development and production of their activities, ensure the emergence of two performing art groups per province by 2010;
- Engage the Public broadcaster, SABC, as the largest consumer of art, drama and film to prioritise local production, through the Enterprise Division;
 - Develop mentorship programme for young producers and promote the development of small business in the production industry, implement learnership programme on production, acting, TV and Radio presenting, at least 100 learners per year;
 - Ensure that at least one indigenous language is made compulsory in all the schools in the country, and that the teaching of different cultures as part of the curricula deepens diversity of our society;
 - Encourage the writing of poetry and books in different languages and ensure the publication of the written material;
 - The Departments of Education, Sport, Art and Culture work in partnership to ensure the development of the above mentioned skills from the start of a young persons education and well into their adulthood;
 - Enact necessary legislations to protect players and artists from abuse by the owners of teams and production companies, regulate the industries to ensure good governance in relation to the efforts of the department.
 - Ensure commitment and investment of resources in these sectors to develop them into wealth creating industries capable of alleviating poverty and unemployment;
 - There should be a deliberate lobby for the establishment of Sports, Arts and Culture facilities in local communities, like Stadium, Community Theatres, etc
 - There should be deliberate festivals for youth development in all provinces. The approach towards this should be premised from Basha Arts Festival as adopted by the NYC and integrated in the 30th Anniversary Programme.
 - There should be a deliberate intervention to promote indigenous Sports and promotion of South African youth participation in the SADC Indigenous games festival.

3.2 Girls and Young women

Current Status

The Gender Mainstreaming Strategy has been drafted for South Africa. South Africa has one of the most progressive constitutions in the world for gender equality. The South African Constitution guarantees the right to bodily integrity and over rides customary law should there be a contradiction between the two¹¹.

The number of women in the national assembly rose by 10% in the 2004 elections. President Mbeki then appointed women premiers in four provinces and several others to lead key ministries. In 2005, South Africa saw an elevation of a woman as a Deputy President of the Country. Women in parliament have become a critical force in lobbying for laws that promote gender justice. These include the Domestic Violence, Maintenance, Recognition of Customary Marriages and the Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act.

The call by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) for the fifty percent representation of women in the 2005 local government elections is in line with national and provincial shifts to increase women's representation in government. In practice, this however did not necessarily transform into a good representation for young women in governance structures.

Through timely legislative reform and by living out their commitment to promoting gender equality in political processes the government has created an enabling environment to foster gender equality.

Slowly attitudes are starting to change. There has been an increase in the discourse around gender equality amongst men. These are evidenced by initiatives such as the "fatherhood project" and "Men as Partners" in the fight to end gender violence¹². These endeavours, although not specifically aimed at young women, have a snowball benefit to young women.

¹¹ Gender links. 2005. From Beijing 1995 to 2005: How has South Africa performed? Available: www.genderlink.org.za

¹² Gender links. 2005. From Beijing 1995 to 2005: How has South Africa performed? Available: www.genderlink.org.za

3.3 Young People and Children

3.4 Young People in Urban Africa

3.5 Young People in the Religious Setting

3.6 VOLUNTEERISM

The National Youth Service Programme (NYSP) is a government initiative launched in August 2004 to engage young people in service activities that are aimed at nation building whilst providing opportunities for learning. The three elements of the National Youth Service are Service Component, Learning as well as clear Exit opportunities. The National Youth Service identifies four key targets, viz, unemployed young people, youth in conflict with the law, further education and training students and higher education students.

- ❖ There are 30 projects that meet the NYS criteria and are registered with the NYSU, these projects have a total number of 13087 young people that are waiting to be trained.
- ❖ Out of the 30 registered projects, 16 projects are funded by the UYF to the total value of R 28 714 186.79
- ❖ Ministerial project on housing +/- 2700 young people involved in the construction of 200 units per province implemented as letsema project. Umsobomvu, National Youth Commission, NHBRC, Municipalities and National Department of Housing are key stakeholders.

Proposed interventions

- The National Youth Service Programme remains an important policy instrument that must be used to massively contribute to the mobilisation of youth in the reconstruction and development of our country;
- Develop campaigns that would integrate national values such as national symbols, national commemorative days, heritages etc in order to imbue the youth with national pride and patriotism;

4. Youth and Political Development

4.1 CHARACTERISATION AND DEFINITION OF YOUTH

On a more informal basis, the pre -1994 youth in South Africa were called names such as the stone throwers, generation X, lost generation etc. These were negative derogatory names that were given to youth. During this period, youth were always treated with suspicion and fear that something may happen if they are around. On a more positive note, the former President of the African National Congress called youth young lions of the struggle in South Africa during the pre-1994 period. The post 1994 generation has mainly been called much more derogatory names such as apolitical, born-frees, care-free, consumerist, materialistic, and lost generation and have been associated with violent, unruly and undisciplined behaviors. Young people are not taking enough interest in issues that affect them as was the case in the pre-1994 epoch. This does not however imply that they are generally apathetic. It is presumed that young people have taken advantage of the opportunities of democracy in South Africa which gives them more than an opportunity to participate in political activities only. Democratization in South Africa has opened up other avenues for young people in South Africa. To a certain extent, some segments of young people have been perpetrators of violent acts, at the same time, some have been victims of the same violent acts. This happened either at the hands of the fellow youth or the abuse at the hands of their own parents.

On a more formal basis, despite a definition of Youth as reflected in the National Youth Commission Act, 1996¹³, which defines youth as those between the ages 14-35, there has not been consistency with regard to the definition of youth across the different sectors. Each government department normally defines youth to opportunistically fit into its own vision, goals and objectives.

The United Nations has for statistical purposes defined youth as those between the ages of 15 and 24 years and acknowledges that, "the meaning of the term youth is varied in different societies around the world and these definitions of youth had changed continuously in response to fluctuating political, economic and socio-cultural circumstances". The United Nations Convention

¹³ Republic of South Africa. National Youth Commission Act

on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) applies to children and young people aged 0 – 18. This in a way is a cross cutting definition which also goes into the group defined as youth as reflected above.

In South Africa, the National Youth Development Policy Framework defines young people as all those between the ages 15 to 28. This is the definition that the government departments and everyone else purporting to represent the youth in the country is encouraged to work towards. The White Paper for Social Welfare defines youth as all those between the ages of 16 and 30. This is aimed at defining mainly the levels at which government social welfare endeavours can be effected. Correctional Services refers to young offenders as all those in the age range 14 to 25. The National Health Policy Guidelines focus on the adolescent and youth as all those between 10 and 24.

The above definitions, emphasizes the existing different cohorts in the South African youth fraternity. In essence, the needs of the different youth strata cannot necessarily be addressed by a one-size-fits-all type of policy approach. The design of both South African Youth Policy (2000) and the South African National Youth Development Policy Framework (2002-2007) were aimed at defining the different needs of the different strata of youth in South Africa. For the purposes of this document, the age groups 14-35 will be applied to define youth in South Africa.

4.2 Africa identity and citizenship

4.3 Young people in diaspora

4.4 Conflict resolution and peace building

4.5 Participation in democratic, rights based and gender equal development

A National Youth Policy has been developed in South Africa which sets the priorities for youth development in South Africa. A national Youth Commission was also established to lobby and advocate for youth development. A civil society organisation, South African Youth Council has

been established which is composed of youth clubs, community based organisations, political organisations and all the youth formations in different interests of youth development.

As reflected in the introduction of this paper, youth engagement in civic activities in general has changed. According to Emmett¹⁴, with regard to civic engagement, 62% of young learners in South Africa were engaged in church activities as compared to 13% who indicated that they got involved in other civic activities. In a sharp contradiction to the above, 74% of young people indicated that they are willing to assist destitute people and 44% reflected that they were willing to work fewer hours and earn lesser if that could create jobs. In essence this reflects that there is no youth apathy in South Africa. The changing political and economic landscapes have opened other doors for young people. More so it has created space for individual independent thinking. Young people are still participating, but as per their own interests because democracy makes room for that. There is political freedom in South Africa, which makes freedom of association and conscience achievable in the country. Young people are also involved in political activities such as elections and campaigns of youth political parties. The last national elections held in 2004 in South Africa, widely condemned as “youth apathetic” elections, had a reasonably high youth participation. The Independent Electoral commission’s records shows that youth voted in higher numbers than their adult counterparts.

¹⁴ Emmett, T. 2004. South African Youth and Civic Engagement. **Youth Development Journal**. 14th ed. 32-41.