



**IFP Submission:**

**Consolidated Youth Development Agenda for the P20 Youth Parliament**

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**Theme: Youth Economic Participation and Employment Opportunities –**

**Developing a Medium-Term Youth Development Agenda for South Africa's Youth**

**Submitted by:** Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)

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## **1. Introduction**

The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) welcomes the initiative by Parliament to convene the first Youth Parliament of the Seventh Democratic Parliament. We view this as a vital step toward placing youth development at the centre of national policy and oversight. In alignment with the G20 Presidency priorities and the objectives of the 11th P20 Speakers' Summit, the IFP proposes the following medium-term priorities for youth economic empowerment and participation.

## **2. Key Priorities and Proposals**

### **2.1. Youth Skills Development and Education Reform**

- Invest in vocational training and technical education through partnerships between government, TVET colleges, and the private sector.

- Integrate entrepreneurship modules into the school curriculum from Grade 10 onwards.
- Address the quality and accessibility of rural and township education facilities, especially in underdeveloped provinces like KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape.

## **2.2. Youth Entrepreneurship and Economic Participation**

- Expand access to youth-targeted micro-finance and grant funding through simplified SEDA and NYDA application processes.
- Create a Youth Enterprise Zone Pilot Programme in each province, offering tax breaks and reduced red tape for youth-owned businesses.
- Promote access to local government procurement opportunities for youth cooperatives and SMMEs.

## **2.3. Public Employment and Job Placement**

- Establish a National Youth Apprenticeship Programme in critical infrastructure sectors (e.g. water, roads, energy).
- Enforce 50% youth representation quotas in EPWP and Presidential Stimulus Programmes.
- Mandate that all national departments and SOEs offer structured internship and learnership pathways for youth.

## **2.4. Inclusive Digital Economy**

- Expand rural internet access and digital skills training hubs, particularly for young women.

- Facilitate partnerships with tech companies to train and place youth in AI, coding, cybersecurity, and remote services.

### **3. Oversight and Implementation**

- Recommend the establishment of a Youth Development Implementation and Oversight Framework (YDIOF) by Parliament to:
  - Track commitments and outcomes of youth development targets.
  - Facilitate quarterly youth reports by departments.
  - Ensure parliamentary committees incorporate youth-focused impact indicators into their oversight work.

### **4. Establishing a Youth Ministry (Youth Minister focusing on youth-related matters)**

- Establishing a Youth Ministry led by Youth for all matters related to youth would be a cornerstone in not only building but also prioritising the next generation.

### **5. Conclusion**

The IFP believes that addressing youth unemployment and exclusion is not only a socio-economic imperative but also a national security issue. We therefore urge Parliament and the Executive to adopt a coherent and time-bound youth development agenda, informed by the lived experiences of our youth.

As Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi reminded us: “A nation that neglects its youth is a nation with no future”. Let this Parliament be remembered for choosing to invest, uplift, and empower.