

*Thursday, 13 November 2025]*

No 198—2025] SECOND SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

**PARLIAMENT**

**OF THE**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS,  
TABLINGS AND  
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2025

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### National Assembly

#### The Speaker

#### 1. Referral to Committees of papers tabled

- (1) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration** for consideration:
  - (a) Report of the Public Service Commission on an Assessment of the Impact of Hybrid Work Arrangements in the Public Service – Expanded follow-up study to explore policy implications – September 2025.

### National Council of Provinces

#### The Chairperson

#### 1. Referral to Committees of papers tabled

- (1) The following Executive Undertakings are referred to the **Select Committee on Public Petitions and Executive Undertakings** for consideration and report:
  - (a) **Minister of Basic Education: During the Sitting of 8 July 2025**, the Minister made the following undertakings:
    - (i) *“We have set ourselves a bold target to register ten thousand ECD centres in the current financial year”.*
    - (ii) *“In addition, the National Catalogue for Grades 1 to 3 is being updated to ensure learners receive high quality, curriculum aligned materials. Hon members, we anticipate this new National Catalogue being in place by 2026 for procurement for the 2027 school year”.*
    - (iii) *“...We are reviewing the Public-School Infrastructure Regulations to strengthen oversight and enforcement. The review, scheduled for completion in this financial year, will include public and stakeholder input”.*

- (iv) *“We have also initiated the development of disaster management guidelines to assist our schools. This is especially important in light of the Mthatha natural disasters where sadly learners lost learners, hon members and hundreds of schools were damaged”.*
  - (v) *“We are reviewing the models used by provinces to implement the National School Nutrition Programme to improve efficiency, financial management and accountability in how the programme is implemented”.*
  - (vi) *“A R162 million is set aside for ECD infrastructure, focusing on the upgrading and formalisation of centres especially in poorer communities”.*
  - (vii) *“We are increasing efforts to support learners whose home language differs from the language they are taught in. And therefore, a further R57 million is allocated over the medium term for the mother tongue Based Bilingual Education”.*
  - (viii) *The Funza Lushaka bursary scheme will support just over 9000 students in the financial year, focusing on Maths, Science, and Foundation Phase”.*
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## **TABLINGS**

### **National Assembly**

#### **1. The Speaker**

- (a) Report on P20 Youth Parliament – 13 June 2025.



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# REPORT ON P20 YOUTH PARLIAMENT

HELD AT PARLIAMENT OF REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
ON A HYBRID VIRTUAL PLATFORM

DATE: 13 JUNE 2025



*Parliament*

FOLLOWING UP ON OUR COMMITMENTS TO THE PEOPLE.  
MAKING YOUR FUTURE WORK BETTER.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa convened its first Youth Parliament of the Seventh Dispensation on 13 June 2025, under the theme, 'Youth Economic Participation, Employment and Opportunities – Developing a Medium-Term Youth Development Agenda for South Africa's Youth.' The event brought together a diverse group of youth from various sectors, including political party youth formations, civil society organisations, disabled youth, student leaders, and young entrepreneurs. It served as a platform for youth to engage directly with Parliament, share their lived experiences, and propose concrete solutions to shape inclusive, youth-centred development policies.

“On 01 December 2024, South Africa officially assumed G20 Presidency and by extension, the South African Parliament also assumed the responsibility of hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> P20 Speakers Summit. The group of twenty (G20) is an international forum for economic cooperation whose aim is to develop policies and strategies to tackle current and future global challenges. The objectives of the group of twenty countries are to promote global economic stability; strengthen global economic growth and improve global economic governance.

South Africa's G20 Presidency also takes place when the world is facing a series of overlapping and mutually reinforcing crises, including climate change, underdevelopment, inequality, poverty, hunger, unemployment, technological changes and geopolitical instabilities.”<sup>1</sup>

South Africa has therefore indicated that its *G20 Presidency 'fully supports the approach of strengthening partnerships and expanding dialogue with a wide range of actors; including States, international organizations and civil society; to collectively shape the G20's approach to issues requiring international cooperation'*.<sup>2</sup>

To this end, the G20 Priorities and Objectives deliberated during the *2025 P20 Youth Parliament* are as follows:

- **Inclusive Economic Growth:** Prioritizing Economic Growth that prioritizes all segments of Society

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<sup>1</sup> <https://g20.org/g20-south-africa/g20-presidency/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://c20brasil.org/about-c20/> (accessed on 06 January 2025)

- **Industrialization and Employment:** Supporting Industrial Development and Creating Employment Opportunities
- **Meaningful Youth Engagement:** Involving Young People in Shaping Global Policies
- **Inclusive Social Development:** Promoting Social Inclusion and Reducing Inequality
- **African Development:** Aligning with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and Promoting the Development of the African Continent
- **Universal Access to Education:** Advancing Universal Access to Higher Education

The Objectives for the Nationwide P20 Sectoral Buildup Activities are as follows:

- In line with South Africa's G20 Presidency commitment to 'fully support the approach of strengthening partnerships and expanding dialogue with a wide range of actors; including States, international organizations and civil society; to collectively shape the G20's approach to issues requiring international cooperation,'<sup>3</sup>: the P20 Youth Parliament seeks to create a strategic platform of engagement, to determine the youth development agenda and priorities, for targeted implementation and oversight over the medium term;
- Ensure that all sectors of society participate in Sector Specific discussions aimed at accelerating the implementation of South Africa's key development priorities
- Bring into sharp focus South Africa's long term development goals and priorities, (as articulate across national and multilateral platforms).
- Deepen Governance Coherence and collaboration, to accelerate the achievement of South Africa and Africa's development priorities, including the developing nations of the global south.
- Enable strategic multi-sectoral social compacting across all sectors of society, to accelerate policy implementation.
- Support the realization of South Africa's development agenda across various multilateral platforms, which are aimed at influencing global policies advocating for Africa's interests.
- Deliberate on matters for targeted implementation and oversight over the medium term.
- Coordinate the three-spheres of government, particularly towards advancing the implementation of South Africa's National and G20 related priorities and targets.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://c20brasil.org/about-c20/> (accessed on 06 January 2025)

- Create the necessary platforms for strategic intersections and engagement between the legislative sector and the executive, on G20 development priorities and partnerships.
- Create the appropriate oversight, monitoring and tracking mechanisms and systems, to ensure sustained implementation of South Africa and Africa's development priorities.
- Ensure that the overarching and far-reaching G20 objectives and priorities are articulated across all multilateral platforms over the medium term.

The P20 countries are derived from the G20 member states, representing the parliamentary dimension of the G20 process. The member countries are:

Argentina	China	Indonesia	Russia	Turkey
Australia	France	Italy	Saudi Arabia	United Kingdom
Brazil	Germany	Japan	South Africa	United States
Canada	India	Mexico	South Korea	European Union <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> European Union (as a collective member representing its institutions and member states)

## 2. OPENING ADDRESS: SETTING THE SCENE

The House Chairperson for Committee Oversight and Public Participation in the National Assembly (NA), Mr CT Frolick, welcomed all delegates to the first hybrid Youth Parliament in the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration scheduled on a hybrid platform. Mr Frolick reflected on the symbolism and significance of the day set aside for hosting the P20 Youth Parliament.

The Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Mr L Govender rendered the opening remarks and welcoming address for the P20 Youth Parliament. He emphasized that under the bold theme “*Youth Economic Participation, Employment and Opportunities – Developing a Medium-Term Youth Development Agenda for South Africa’s Youth,*” Youth Parliament would serve as a platform for not only discussing policy but to ensure that it was personal, practical, and impactful. As such, attention was given to design the programme to facilitate meaningful engagement based on the principle that nothing can be done about youth matters without youth involvement. To this end, Deputy Chairperson noted that the Constitution was developed based on inclusivity with the clear intent of leaving nobody behind and it is with this spirit that Youth Parliament would be conducted.

Moreover, he went on to state that, “*Youth are not the leaders of tomorrow, you are leaders today and you will lead the process towards achieving the change that South Africa needs.*” The Deputy Chairperson reiterated that the decisions made at Youth Parliament have the potential to shape strategies, budgets, reforms, and opportunities that will define the next decade. Thus, youth participants can shape the future. In keeping with the approach, Deputy Chairperson shared at the Africa day lecture, he presented a challenge for the youth to firstly; be bold in their ideas, secondly; be fearless in their participation and lastly be united in their commitment to a more inclusive, innovative, and youth-driven future.

As the Deputy Chairperson concluded his opening remarks, he reiterated that voices of youth matters, that they should challenge assumptions; propose real, practical solutions and proceed together with purpose, passion, pride and patriotism.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, the Honourable Ms AT Didiza, proceeded with her opening address and welcomed participants to the P20 Youth Parliament. She emphasised the importance of youth involvement in shaping South Africa's future and focused on youth economic participation, employment, and opportunities.

The Speaker commenced by reflecting on the role of Parliament which is to oversee executive action and hold the executive to account. She went on to state that Parliament brings to life concerns of the electorate and that it becomes a platform for debate as well as to ensure that society's concerns are addressed. In addition, the Speaker highlighted the importance of youth activism, solidarity, the need for inclusive, sustainable development and that the P20 Youth Parliament aimed to gather young people's voices and insights to inform the P20 and G20 Summits. The P20 Youth Parliament was also expected to stimulate robust debates and formulate solutions that can positively impact the lives and aspirations of all young people in the country. She stated that, "Young People Are a Solution to Global Challenges".

Due recognition was given to the role played by youth in the development of the Freedom Charter, in forming part of the first democratic parliament and legislatures that laid the foundations of a democratic state as well as in the fees must fall campaign in ensuring expanding access to education. The Speaker recalled that because of the youth activism of the 1970s against the immorality of imposing a certain language as a sole medium of instruction in schools, the country prides itself in current Democracy Institutions such as Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) and the Cultural, Religious and Linguistic (CRL) Rights Commission.

Notwithstanding that, youth comprise the majority of unemployed in the country despite completing their studies hence the theme for Youth Parliament which focuses on economic participation and employment. Despite the advances made in attaining democracy, the Speaker reiterated that the challenges of unemployment and in particular youth unemployment remains as a significant challenge in the attainment of the country's democratic dividend. A call was made to reflect on ways in which the country's economy can grow and that allows for participation for all South Africans. In addition, the Speaker encouraged participants to need to find solutions that address the immediate challenges to give hope to those young people who feel excluded and on the periphery of society with the understand that South African forms part of the global community and therefore affected by geopolitical shifts that occurs because of pandemics and conflict.

She went on to state that economic participation cannot be realised unless conducive enabling environments are created. Furthermore, the Speaker noted that how corporate citizens support the transformation agenda should also be explored. To this end key questions were posed for discussion namely, are South Africa's financial institutions friendly to young entrepreneurs and are trade promotion strategies considering the concerns of young traders?

In addition, the Speaker indicated that current policies need to be examined, and inputs are required on what needs to be done to address the scourge of unemployment in particular youth employment.

Reference was also made to the fiscal framework that was passed to unlock the finances of the Medium-Term Development Goals. As such, it was imperative to frame what should be the priority for youth in those medium-term goals. The Speaker indicated that the debate and political party statements should unpack the issues and propose solutions that will improve youth inclusion in the job market and business. She proposed measures that will empower youth to maximise the opportunities brought by the Artificial Intelligence using local languages.

The Speaker stressed there was an urgent and significant need for solutions for youth to resist the temptation of hegemony in dealing with the high levels of unemployment, poverty and crime in the country. To this end, she went on to state that "the current trajectory cannot be altered if the voice of the youth is mute and if young people are disengaged from activism and politics."

In conclusion, the Speaker stated that key insights can be derived from the youth of 1940s; 1960s and 1970s which pertained to the solidarity and their pursuit based on common interests. To reflect those times, it required youth to drift away from the "us-and-them politics" towards a politically apathetic activism. She indicated that the present economic realities demand of the youth to form solidarity based on the desire for social justice and economic inclusion. Moreover, the solidarity to promote sustainable development and defeat any form of discrimination within society.

### **3. MESSAGES OF SUPPORT**

Messages of support were rendered by the Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Ms S Chikunga followed by Ms L Jacobs, the Miss Teenager Universe Africa and then the Junior Mayor for Cape Town, Mr MD Bam.

#### **3.1. HON. MINISTER CHIKUNGA – MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY: WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Minister Chikunga conveyed the Message of Support on behalf of the Ministry in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. She indicated that the sitting was

not only national in scope but formed part of the broader P20 process, which brings together Parliaments from G20 countries to amplify voices across sectors, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Hence, Youth Parliament was not regarded as a peripheral but a core platform in the architecture of global democratic dialogue. Minister Chikunga welcomed the forthcoming P20 engagements set aside for young parliamentarians and women parliamentarians across the G20 countries. To this end, the Minister reiterated the commitment to Disability Inclusion and urged that this finds expression in the discussions.

In reflecting on the historical significance of Youth Month and the unfinished work of generational justice, the Minister reminded participants that democracy is not only defended through elections, but also deepened through active, inclusive participation. She went on to state that Youth Parliament was not merely a youth event but a constitutional moment, a demonstration that the voices of young people are not ornamental, but fundamental to the integrity of our democracy.

With respect to Sectoral Parliaments as tools of participatory democracy, the Minister noted that the sitting was part of Parliament's formal public participation architecture, which includes sectoral engagements such as the Youth Parliament, Women's Parliament and call was made for the resuscitation of the Disability Parliament. In terms of youth participation as a constitutional right and a strategic necessity, the Minister stated that the Constitution does not suggest public participation, but it demands it. Hence, Youth Parliament was a practical expression of that constitutional promise and a reminder that young people are not just the future, they are present-day stakeholders in the life of our democracy. This was pertinent given that over 60 percent of the population is under the age of 35 therefore youth should be heard, respected, and reflected in the highest decision-making spaces. To this end, the Minister acknowledged that the representation of young people in Parliament was improving, with approximately 12 MPs under the age of 30, and several more under 35. As such the Minister reiterated that Youth Parliament must not be treated as a symbolic event but instead be institutionalised as a strategic mechanism of governance.

The Minister acknowledged the intersecting crises faced by youth namely unemployment, exclusion, GBVF, mental health challenges, and climate injustice. But she went on to state that "young people are not simply vulnerable, they are valuable. They are not just a constituency in need; they are a generation in motion." To this end, she indicated that across South Africa, youth were developing AI tools for education, launching agritech ventures, organising climate action campaigns, expanding the creative economy, and reimagining what

public service can look like. Hence what youth needed was not charity but capital, connection, and trust. Thus, reiterating again, the valuable opportunity presented through Youth Parliament creating a platform for young people to present their own solutions, in their own voices, to those who hold the levers of policy and implementation. She said, “It is not consultation, it is co-governance.”

As the Ministry responsible for coordinating youth development across government, the Minister reaffirmed the importance of that mandate. She noted that through the Medium-Term Development Plan (2024–2029), the Department was embedding measurable youth development indicators across sectors, from education and employment to entrepreneurship and participation, that it was not merely data for data’s sake but how the Department would track progress, expose inertia, and drive accountability. In addition, the Department was also working to institutionalise Youth Desks and Youth Focal Points across all departments, not as tick-box admin roles, but as sites of policy influence and innovation. The Minister reiterated that these structures must be capacitated, respected, and integrated into core decision-making. And at the programme level, the Department supported a series of catalytic initiatives such as the South African National Service Institute (SANSI); the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI) and the Youth Endowment Fund.

The Minister concluded by stating that “Youth Parliament must not be a moment, it must be a movement.” And to the youth she indicated “May your voices today echo far beyond this chamber. May they shape policies, shift power, and sharpen our democracy. I am here, not just to speak, but to listen, to learn, and to be held accountable.”

### **3.2. MS L. JACOBS (MISS TEENAGER UNIVERSE AFRICA)**

Ms Jacobs welcomed the opportunity to acknowledge the youth of South Africa and to come together with a shared vision for a brighter future, driven by the power of youth. She reiterated the potential of young people to shape change. Furthermore, Ms Jacobs indicated that empowering youth for a sustainable future resonated deeply with her and that she recognised that “our generation holds the key to unlocking innovative solutions, driving economic growth, and promoting social justice.” To this end, she listed six pivotal sub-themes that would shape the future of our nations and our continent these included:

- a) Inclusive Economic Growth where we can restructure economies to benefit all, addressing oligopolies and promoting fair competition. This will create opportunities for entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation.

- b) Industrialization and Employment is important because supporting industrial development, creates jobs and opportunities for youth. By investing in industries that drive growth, we can reduce unemployment and stimulate economic progress.
- c) Meaningful Youth Engagement where young people must be given such opportunities and have a seat at the table, shaping global and national policies. Our voices, perspectives, and ideas are crucial in driving change and ensuring that policies are responsive to our needs.
- d) Inclusive Social Development promoting social inclusion, reducing inequality and ensuring everyone thrives. By addressing social injustices and promoting equal opportunities, we can build a more equitable society.
- e) African Development where we collaborate to align with the African Union's Agenda 2063, driving continental progress. This ambitious plan outlines a future of prosperity, peace, and development for Africa, and we must work together to achieve its goals.
- f) Universal Access to Education is the most fundamental right; let's advance access to higher education for all. By investing in education, we can equip young people with the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to drive innovation and growth.

Ms Jacobs, representing youth of South Africa and an advocate for youth empowerment including young leaders noted the unique opportunity to shape the future of the continent, and called on youth to work together to drive innovation and entrepreneurship; foster partnerships and collaborations; promote social justice and equality; empower marginalized communities and build a brighter future for all. She concluded by stating, "Let's make our voices heard, leveraging our unique perspectives and experiences. We will learn from each other, share ideas, and build partnerships that will last a lifetime."

### **3.3. MR MD BAM (JUNIOR MAYOR FOR CAPE TOWN)**

Mr Bam, Junior Mayor of Cape Town, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Youth Parliament, highlighting the significance of this platform in a historic moment as South Africa prepares to assume the Presidency of the G20. He emphasised that the world is watching, and this presents a unique opportunity for South Africa to lead with purpose and integrity.

He stated that the gathering should not be reduced to a spectacle or limited to words alone. Instead, it must be a catalyst for meaningful action.

Mr Bam drew attention to the daily realities faced by many young South Africans: the unemployed graduate searching for opportunity, the child who walks into school hungry, the learner without access to quality education, and the matriculant with great potential who cannot afford university fees. These, he stressed, are not abstract statistics, they are real people with real lives and futures. "They are watching us today," he said.

He called on the youth to start leading now, rather than waiting for the future. He stressed the need for a Youth Development Agenda that goes beyond ticking boxes, to one that breaks down barriers and unlocks the full potential of young people. He questioned whether jobs are truly being created, whether youth voices are meaningfully included, and whether social policies adequately address the invisible battles, including mental health challenges.

Addressing his fellow young leaders, Mr Bam reminded them that there is no perfect plan for progress and emphasised that change must begin now rather than waiting for ideal conditions. He thanked Parliament for providing the platform and urged that the Youth Parliament should not be a one-time event, but rather a living, breathing institution that ensures the voices of young people are meaningfully embedded in policymaking, governance, and global discourse. He concluded with a powerful message, stating that if South Africa is to lead the G20 with courage and conviction, it must first lead its own youth with justice and resolve, and called on all stakeholders to let the work begin.

## 4. SESSION 1: STRATEGIC INSIGHT AND ANALYSIS

### 4.1. Statistics South Africa

*“Unpacking the status of Youth Development in South Africa: Providing High Level Statistical insight on Youth Poverty, presenter: Mr. Solly Molayi, Acting Deputy Director-General: Population and Social Statistics”*

Mr. Molayi presented on behalf of Statistics South Africa and reflected on the status of youth development in South Africa. He indicated that the South African population constituted about 63 million people with a population growth of around 1.3 percent. Youth comprised about 2.8 million in South Africa, and combined with children, amounts to 38 million. In turn, this means that about 60 percent of the population is below 35 years of age. The statistics indicate that there are 4.7 million youth-headed households in South Africa that is increasing over time. Of particular interest, which the presenter drew attention to, was the number of young mothers who gave birth aged between 10 and 19 years, which amounts to 11 percent and 12 percent of all the deliveries in hospitals. Mr Molayi drew attention to this as some of the challenges that the Youth Parliament should discuss.

With reference to living arrangements of children, nationally 45.5 percent of children live with their mothers only and less than a third (31.4 percent) of children lived with both parents. The statistics further show those who indicated that they do not live with either a mother or a father. With respect to provinces, the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and Limpopo Provinces are leading in terms of the proportions of children living with their mother but also in terms of children living with neither parent. The Eastern Cape records 32.1 percent of children living with neither parent. Regarding the two provincial economic hubs, Gauteng and Western Cape, the proportions of those children who live with both parents are quite high - 40.4 percent and 36.8 percent respectively while Western Cape records the lowest of children not living with their parents at 9.1 percent. Furthermore, the number of youth-headed households increased from 3.2 million to 4.7 million between 2002 and 2024.

Mr Molayi presented key issues related to education and requested the Youth Parliament to focus on these issues. He went on to state that there is universal access to pre-school, primary, and secondary schooling. However, challenges related to the post-matric phase as the proportions are still quite low. Statistics revealed a sharp decline from 15 years to the

largest proportion of 22–24-year-olds not in employment, education or training (NEET). Solutions are required to address these challenges.

The presentation also examined the reasons why some youths are not attending school, with a stark comparison in the age gap between young males and females. For females the reason was family commitment and for males it was poor academic performance. In terms of family commitments, this often-entailed girl children staying home, missing school to take care of and assisting the sick at home, which would not be expected of the boy child. Mr Molayi noted that these gendered dynamics required discussion as it had a negative bearing on the girl child in terms of access to education.

With respect to unemployment, Mr. Molayi indicated that the official unemployment rate increased by 1 percentage point to 32.9 percent in Q1 of 2025 as compared to Q4 of 2024. He went on to state that youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years continue to have the highest unemployment rates at 62.4 percent and 40.4 percent respectively. Moreover, 73.5 percent of those in the working age 25-34 years are participating in the labour market with 43.8 percent of the working age population in employment. Furthermore, he reiterated that youth unemployment remained high over the past decade. The official unemployment rate amongst youth aged 15-34 years stood at 35.9 percent in Q1 of 2015 and a decade later in Q1 of 2025 that figure increased to 46.1 percent. Hence a 9.2 percentage point increase signaling worsening conditions for the youth. When considering discouraged job seekers, approximately 2.0 million out of 3.5 million discouraged work-seekers were youth between the ages of 15-34 years in Q1 of 2025. To this end, Mr. Molayi indicated that the challenge was to look at ways of ensuring that the youth became part of the production needs. He acknowledged that the challenge was compounded by youth NEET.

Having examined the provincial youth unemployment rate and labour force participation rates for Q1 of 2025, the North-West and the Eastern Cape showed both the highest unemployment rates and the lowest participation rates amongst youth (15-34 years). The Eastern Cape unemployment rate was 54.3 percent and the labour force participation rate 39.8 percent. For the North-West, the unemployment rate was 58.8 percent, and the labour force participation rate was 43 percent.

The employment statistics by industries and occupations for Q1 of 2025 indicate that most of the youth who are employed fall within the trade, community, social services, and finance and elementary sales and services and clerking occupations. The presenter noted that “one would

hope that managerial positions and professions for youth would be at the top considering we are building a new society with the youth as our future.” Mr. Molayi went on to state a key challenge related to affording young people an opportunity to acquire experience but the data, over the last decade, revealed that those without experience are more likely to struggle to get into the job market. Notwithstanding that, youth with experience are 12.3% more likely to be employed. Emphasis was thus placed on the need to provide a space for young people to have access to employment and gain experience.

The informal economy has demonstrated to be the lifeblood of the economy of South Africa over the years. The data indicates that about 1.9 million South Africans are running non-VAT registered businesses in 2023. However, research findings indicate that in 2023, 1.9 million were running at least one non-VAT registered business, but this was lower than 2.3 million individuals recorded in 2001. Similarly, a decline in the percentage of youth cohort was also noted for the same period. Hence discussions are ongoing about how to ensure that the youth have access to resources that would enable them to run their own businesses.

With respect to household income and expenditure in terms of race, as per the Income and Expenditure Survey of 2022/23, White headed-households earned five times more than Black African-headed household. The average expenditure for a White household was R410 141 compared to a Black African that was R94 271. The average income for a White household was R609 848 compared to a Black African which was R115 977.

Households headed by those with tertiary education earned twelve times more than those with no schooling. Thus, the distribution of the average annual household expenditure and income by education level of youth (15-44-years) household head showed that youth with tertiary education had an average income of R364 288 and expenditure of R260 410. This was in sharp contrast to youth with no schooling having an average income of R30 925 and an average expenditure of R41 121.

Youth that have specifically benefited from the social grant have seen an increase from 2009 to 2024. The increase affects the household perspective as well as the individual. The social grants have increased and started to grow significantly immediately during or after COVID-19, and it was driven by the SRD grants. The provision of the grant has also increased over time.

The presenter summarized by drawing attention to what was highlighted by the data; by reminding the Youth Parliament that almost 60% of the population is youth; that most youth

are unemployed; and that there are some challenges related to gendered dynamics within in the household. In addition, he reminded the sitting of the living conditions and the living arrangements within the household where very few children are living with both parents and where the youth are benefiting significantly in terms of the social grant as demonstrated over the last decade and that this increase is driven by the SRD grants.

#### **4.2. National Planning Commission Analytical Perspectives**

*“National Planning Commission Analytical Perspectives on G20 and P20 Priorities to Advance Youth Development: Proposals to Drive Youth Economic Participation, Employment, and Opportunities” Presented by Ms Phumzile Chifunyise, Dr Tshepo Feela, and Dr Morne Mostert – Commissioners, National Planning Commission*

Ms Chifunyise provided a background on the National Planning Commission (NPC), with reference to how it was established. The NPC is an independent advisory body that is a custodian of South Africa’s long-term plan, the NDP. There are 27 Commissioners in the NPC, who were selected for their expertise across finance, economics, policy, science, technology, rural development, youth and other sectors. The first NPC drafted the NDP: Vision 2030, which was adopted by government in 2012 to eradicate poverty and reduce unemployment and inequality in the country. The current NPC is the third established and was appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa in December 2021. The expanded list of key issues noted, and advice developed includes economic development, food security, water security, energy policy and planning, social cohesion, education, health, 4IR, public transport, industrial development, spatial planning, and climate change.

Following an overview of the planning focus, a brief introduction was provided on the role of the NPC, highlighting its evidence-based research and advisory functions. The research is aimed at being able to influence policy in the workstreams of economy, society, and governance. The advancement of youth is currently anchored in the social workstream of the NPC, named ‘Enhancing the Quality of Life’, which addresses the NDP’s goals for youth in areas such as

- education,
- health,
- social protection, and
- children.

Acknowledging the cross-cutting nature of matters affecting the youth, the NPC has resolved that youth development should be embedded across all socio-economic aspects of the NDP to ensure the full participation of youth.

The NPC is in the process of developing a diagnostic advisory note about youth in South Africa, which aims to advise government about mainstreaming youth development across government, outlining best practices for effective solutions to ensure its successful implementation as outlined in the current NDP and for any future long-term plans. In addition, the NPC have evaluated the targets of the current youth policy instruments, particularly the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP), National Youth Plan (NYP), and the Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS), to determine whether national youth policy targets align with the NDP indicators to adequately track progress against the NDP youth targets.

Identifying challenges and opportunities with the three youth policy instruments highlights the following:

- There is an absence of targets and benchmarks in the National Youth Plan, despite clear, high-level indicators provided.
- youth mainstreaming has not been integrated across all priority areas of the Medium-Term Development Plan.
- The current IYDS term ends at the end of 2025, presenting an opportunity for a new IYDS to align with MTDP indicators and the NDP.

Through its review of progress made on the achievement of goals set out in policy instruments, the NPC noted that most of the country's economic indicators are going in the wrong direction, most particularly pertaining to youth. The NPC recommends an economic roadmap to put South Africa on a path to address challenges of youth unemployment, poverty, and inequality, where the action plan and accountability are shared by government and the private sector.

The roadmap recommends:

- A particular focus on youth employment through a targeted and co-ordinated youth employment strategy.
- A call to action to develop the skills and expertise of employable young graduates and professionals in implementing a sustainable, just energy programme.
- Implement practical partnerships between the state and sector-focused private sector bodies to promote investment, exports, and job creation in future-facing sectors.

- Enable affordable financing for small businesses, including youth-owned businesses.
- Develop digital infrastructure, with particular focus on townships and schools, which will significantly benefit faster adoption of new technologies and integration of 4IR-related education opportunities for young students.
- Unlock the potential of the agricultural sector, including for young farmers, graduates and youth throughout the value chain,

Additionally, the NPC advocated a non-traditional approach to addressing youth unemployment in the public sector by matching unemployed youth with work opportunities using flexible labour practices that recognise, stimulate, and protect youth in short-term, precarious and multiple task-based work. This approach would enable youth to obtain multiple income streams rather than focusing on one full-time 'job', in both South African and global markets. Additional avenues through which additional public service employment for youth can be developed were also discussed, including:

- A National Youth Employment Accelerator (NYEA)
- Youth Service Corps Expansion
- Youth Employment Zones (YEZs)

The NPC further emphasized that youth SMME development and economic participation should be quantified and tracked to targets that will amplify national priorities. Efforts should include the development of youth-focused sector master plans and the development of startup legislation akin to the African Union Start-up Law Framework that characterises and creates a supportive regulatory environment for a fast-growing startup culture, especially for youth startups. Government was further urged to implement strategies to radically increase the state of a localised commercial innovation sector, which is led by youth-owned businesses, and youth in urban, township, and rural localities.

Youth empowerment to drive key sectors of the country's economy in specific sectors need to be recognised in plans like the Decadal Plan (2022-2032) published by the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, which recognises the importance of youth as a key driver for the National System of Innovation. Youth-centred economic policy development could also be stimulated through the inclusion of Youth Impact Assessments (YIA) for all national policies and Bills, and to expand the use of Youth Economic Advisory Panels. Sectors where this could be done includes:

- The green economy

- The creative and cultural economy
- The social economy
- The digital, knowledge and innovation economy
- Public procurement

Finally, the speaker focussed on a building inclusive rural economy focused on:

- Agriculture and Food System Reform
- Agricultural Technical Training
- Youth Agribusiness Parks
- Land Access and Reform
- Agri-Processing Incentive Scheme
- Commercial market integration

The concluding recommendations made by the speaker focused on the establishment of a youth development results framework aligned to the G20/NDP and the development of an annual youth development impact report to be tabled in Parliament. There was a call for the creation of a youth participation platform for monitoring delivery via mobile/web tools, and the launch of a public dashboard to track key metrics (youth employment rate, SMME support uptake). Delegates were urged to consider the adoption of a Presidential Youth Development Compact to coordinate youth development efforts, and to prioritise intergovernmental coordination and youth-led implementation of key interventions. Finally, the need to mobilise public, private, and international partners in resourcing the agenda, including prioritising existing catalytic programmes was emphasized.

### **4.3. Financial Fiscal Commission**

Dr Patience Nombeko Mbava, Chairperson of the Finance and Fiscal Commission (FFC) delivered her presentation structured around key focus areas: role of the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC); driving inclusive growth and job creation, framed based on State of Nation Address, contextualising youth unemployment in South Africa including the Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfer System and youth unemployment. Further, discussion covered government education spending on skills development (SETAs), FFC research on youth unemployment outlining the key findings and laying out FFC policy recommendations.

The FFC plays a strategic role as the nation's financial and fiscal policy advisory body. Its role is enacted in the national Constitution.

Dr Mbava highlighted that South Africa's youth population (defined as individuals aged 15 to 34) makes up just over one-third (i.e. 21 million youths) of the country's total population of 62 million and has a slight female majority (50.1 per cent female vs 49.9 per cent male). Further, South Africa is currently experiencing a demographic transition: a phenomenon where declining mortality and fertility shift the country's population structure. South Africa has the potential to benefit from its youth demographic dividend. Reports indicate that other nations with similar demographic shifts have benefited enjoying strong economic growth. In South Africa the case is different. For the past 15 years South Africa has recorded low economic growth, low investment and registered high inequality rate. Coupled with increasing poverty level in society and stubbornly increasing rate of unemployment affecting more young people, women and people with physical disabilities.

The presentation of the FFC underscored the fact that youth unemployment presents a national crisis that need to be urgently tackled to avert social instability. It was registered that at the national level, youth unemployment has increased from per cent in 2014 to 45.5 per cent in 2024. Most provinces have youth unemployment exceeding the national rate, with the highest rates occurring in the North-West (53.2 per cent), Free State (52.1 per cent), and Mpumalanga (50 per cent). Reports show that between 2014 and 2024, the rate of youth unemployment across most provinces has increased over time. The Western Cape registering better performance than other provinces. Limpopo has underperformed over the period from 24 per cent to 47 per cent.

According to the FFC, Statistics South Africa reports attribute the disparities across provinces due to rurality of the provinces. However, Dr Mbava advanced that the data disputes this interpretation as youth unemployment in Gauteng increased from 35.2 to 48.9 per cent.

Further, FFC stressed that the data shows that in 2014, female youths were more likely to be discouraged than male youths, while in 2024 the converse picture has emerged. Between 2014 and 2024, male discouraged youths increased marginally from 11.1 to 11.2 per cent, while female discouraged youths declined from 11.7 per cent to 10.5 per cent. The presentation pinpointed that Gauteng and the Western Cape have seen the largest increase in both male and female discouraged youths. According to the FFC this development suggests that the decrease in the rate of youth unemployment in the Western Cape between 2014 and 2024 could be driven by the increase in discouraged work-seekers, rather than an actual increase in youth employed.

However, in South Africa distribution of resources, jobs and opportunities are concentrated in three main provinces, Gauteng (Johannesburg), Western Cape (Cape Town), and KwaZulu Natal (Durban). This development trend needs to be corrected to rebalance economic development to reach economic regions lagging. According to the FFC the trends in terms of net inter-provincial migratory patterns between 2016 and 2021 show significant in-migration to the Western Cape (WC) and especially Gauteng (GP) provinces, broadly corresponding to the increases in the number of discouraged youths in these provinces.

The FFC presentation highlighted that that migration across provinces may be driven by various factors, including the search for better service delivery and job opportunities. These factors have a role to play in the concentration of discouraged youths in certain provinces. Hence there is a need for government in partnership with the private sector to increase investment economic infrastructure such as electricity and water supply. Further, to create a conducive policy environment for businesses to develop into industrial activities and employment opportunities for youth.

The FFC advances that youth should be mobilized into entry-level employment opportunities with routine tasks and labour-intensive work. Shifting the policy focus from only on bolstering educational attainment and skills development to practical, on-the-job training and skill-work transition. Aligned with the National Planning Commission, the FFC highlighted that South Africa has poorly educated, poorly skilled, and poorly socialised youth who are largely unemployable in the South African economy or who find it hard to adapt to the demands of the world of work and entrepreneurship.

The FFC presentation introduced a discussion about the need to review the provincial equitable share (PES) formulae as a mechanism to allocate the provincial share of nationally raised revenue equitably across the nine provinces. Dr Mbava argues that the current PES is largely population-driven and captures shifts in demand across provinces. It does not accommodate youth unemployment dynamics. As such it needs to be reviewed. However, the presentation submitted that the current PES mechanism covers social and human development funds like basic education, health, and social development. In addition, Local Government Equitable Share LGES although vital to investing in basic infrastructure such as water, sanitation and electricity, sanitation lacks a job creation component. These funds have an indirect effect to boosting long-term employability. However, the FFC presentation emphasised a need for the creation of job creation component.

It was noted that government has in the past and continues to increase spending on learning and culture. However, there is a significant gap in terms of quality of outcomes including employability. Dr Mbava advanced that there is a lack of a tangible return on investment. Public spending should move beyond improving training and skills development. Performance of the Training and Skills Development Programmes, and the job seekers programme should be scaled up. The FFC presentation pointed that between 2013/14 and 2023/24, Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETA), which was designed to support and fund workplace-based learning programmes (such as learnerships, apprenticeships, and internships). Its spending has grown at an average growth rate of 6.74 per cent. However, the increase in funding for skills development has not resulted in significant reductions in youth unemployment.

Further, there is a need to elevate qualitative improvement in training and the workplace linkages within the TVET sector including general higher education and training. It is advanced that TVET colleges should be brought closer to employers to facilitate workplace training for learners and the continuous up-skilling of lecturers.

Despite increase in public spending, unemployment remained high. Hence there is a need to reshape government spending composition. The FFC advocates like many public policy commentators that the proportion of gross fixed capital formation expenditure as the composition item of the budget should be progressively increased to tackle high unemployment crisis. Thus, spending must support productive sectors to spur economic growth.

Dr Mbava highlighted a need to fix the gap between supply and demand measures including institutional capacity and capability. From a supply side, South Africa needs to address poor-quality education system, weak foundational, practical and artisanal skills, low completion rates and high dropout rates at the school level, emphasised FFC. Regarding demand side measures, FFC advances that the economy must grow faster, and be inclusive. Structural reforms need to be implemented and opportunities at firm level must be created including reforming labour laws to make it easy to absorb young people in the labour market. Further efforts must be activated to revive labour intensive industries.

Further, government needs to tackle misalignment challenges such as lack of information on available jobs and weak employment services (e.g. counselling and career guidance) including lack of clear policy coordination and leadership regarding development initiatives.

Highlighted in the FFC presentation was also the lack of coordination in the implementation of the NYDA development initiatives, Jobs Fund, Expanded Public Works Programmes, labour activation intervention conducted by the Department of Employment and labour and Presidency including Employment Tax Initiatives.

Regarding the Employment Tax Initiatives, FFC stressed that there is a need to revise the employee eligibility age from 18 to 29 years old to cover for age groups that have a relatively high rate of individuals not in education, employment or training (NEET). Young women need to be prioritised. Since their NEET rate is higher than their young male counterparts.

The role of the departments of Employment and Labour, Higher Education and Training, Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Small Business Development and Trade, Industry and Competition do not need to be overemphasised. Their institutional capacity and ineffective governance should be addressed to improve policy and programme coordination. The key issue is to ensure that young people transition smoothly from education and training skills to labour market participation.

Finally, the FFC made the following policy recommendations:

- Refocusing the policy attention, emphasising shift from strictly educational attainment and classroom learning to practical, on-the-job training opportunities of the youth.
- Underscored that fiscal policy be redirected to bolster labour demands, in accordance to structure of the industries. Further, increase support of labour-intensive industries.
- Government policy and funding should create incentives for businesses to employ young workers in entry-level positions which are not conditional on level of educational attainment.
- Further, funding should incentives SMEs to create more internship opportunities and vacation job placements by providing subsidies that will assist the youth in gaining practical work experience and exposure to different industries in the labour market.
- In addition, government should encourage the private sector to address the issue of youth unemployment and unemployment in general. This would need government to create conducive regulatory reforms to incentives the private sector to support youth employment initiatives.
- Government entities should work in partnership with the private sector to strengthening youth-labour demand and job placements.
- There is a need to coordinate efforts and streamline labour market programmes to help with the inclusion of the private sector, which could maximise the impact of labour

market interventions. A more integrated and impactful approach to supporting youth employment could reduce youth unemployment.

The FFC contribution underscored that South Africa needs to take advantage of its youthful population. If properly harnessed, it has the potential to make significant contribution to economic growth and stability. Investing in young people has a positive effect to contribute to South Africa's economic transformation agenda.

## 5. FIRST INTERACTIVE SESSION

### 5.1. INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH - RESTRUCTURE THE ECONOMY, ADDRESSING OLIGOPOLIES AND CONCENTRATION - *BY YOUTH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION*

The South African Youth Council (SAYC), as a national representative body of youth formations, submitted its expanded strategic blueprint to offer clear, measurable, and evidence-based recommendations to influence policy and implementation. The organisation indicated that its intention is not only to participate in national discourse but to lead a generational transformation rooted in dignity, agency, and equity.

#### 5.1.1. Submissions made by SAYC

The organisation suggested that youth unemployment can be reduced by 15 per cent in 2030 through targeted, sector-specific and structural interventions including:

- Establishing a youth employment war room at a cost of R15 million.
- The call for a labour readiness market campaign at an estimated cost of R8 million targeting 200 000 young people.
- The call for a private-public employment programme for drive internships for 100 000 young people.

With regards to breaking the generational poverty, the organisation suggested the following strategy:

- Nutrition Expansion: Integrate school feeding schemes with local subsistence and emerging commercial agriculture to support both food security and rural economies.
- Social Support Audit: Conduct an annual audit of youth access to social grants, UIF, and other safety nets, with digital mapping of coverage gaps.
- Mental Health Pilots: Launch school-based and community-led mental health pilot programmes in 5 districts by Q4 2025, using tele-psychiatry and peer-counselling models.

When responding to the 2025 State of the Nation Address commitments, the following were suggested:

- Grade R expansion: Track infrastructure and ECD teacher training.

- SME Support: Launch a youth Biz accelerator in 9 provinces to fund 1000 youth led SMEs.
- TVET strengthening: 10 sectoral Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) must be signed with business.

### **5.1.2. Sector-Specific recommendations by SAYC**

Tackling systemic youth exclusion demands integrated and responsive policies across five pillars: Education, Health, Economy, Environment, and Governance.

#### Pillar 1: Education

- Objective: Modernize curriculum and link learning outcomes to job readiness.
- Tactics: Introduce coding, robotics, and financial literacy into TVET and secondary school curricula; invest in digital classrooms.
- Indicator: Employment rate within 12 months of graduation.

#### Pillar 2: Health

- Objective: Improve access to youth-specific health services.
- Tactics: Partner with mobile clinics; expand youth-friendly services in existing clinics; promote peer health education.
- Indicator: % increase in clinic uptake by youth.

#### Pillar 3: Economy

- Objective: Double youth-owned formal enterprises by 2030.
- Tactics: Establish Youth Enterprise Development Hubs in all 44 districts; integrate with local SMME development units.
- Indicator: % growth in youth-owned business registration and sustainability after 1 year.

#### Pillar 4: Environment

- Objective: Empower youth to lead climate adaptation and green job creation.
- Tactics: Create Green Youth Brigades under EPWP; provide climate skills training.
- Indicator: number of green jobs created; CO2 savings per annum.

#### Pillar 5: Governance

- Objective: Institutionalize youth voice in decision-making.
- Tactics: Strengthen Youth Desks at municipal level; monitor implementation of the Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS).
- Indicator: % compliance rate; civic engagement score by province.

## 5.2. OUTCOMES OF FIRST INTERACTIVE SESSION

The following key outcomes could be noted:

- There was a call for the 80 percent job reservation for South Africans and 20 percent for foreign nationals only in scarce skills.
- There was a call for statistics SA to indicate what type of jobs are young people working in for those employed.
- There was a concern over lack of implementation of youth desks within government departments.
- There is a need for flexible labour policies on income generation activities that youth are involved in.
- SMME targets to youth business owners must not only be in legislation, but also in access to finance.
- Formulas for equitable share in provinces and local government must deal not only with service delivery matters, but youth unemployment.
- There was concern over the need to advance education in AI while majority of young people in rural areas still have no access to internet.
- There are limitations of access to government youth programmes such as NYDA, SETA programmes, etc.
- There was a concern over growing rates of unemployment graduates in the country.
- There was a call for AI to be embraced and not be seen as a threat.
- There was a question on how government is dealing with corruption which steals opportunities from the youth.
- There was a concern that in the age of 4IR there are still high levels of South African youth who don't have basic computer skills.
- There was a call for artisan skills colleges to train higher levels of youth to become artisans
- There was a disappointment that the programme of the session and discussions are not factoring in people living with disabilities.
- There was a concern that over 16 million of young people in South Africa are not participating in the economy, and they indicate that foreign nationals are to blame.

- Fiscal policy must be used to drive labour demand to enable young people are absorbed into entry level positions.
- Statistics SA indicated that the biggest challenge they face is the issue of measuring the number of undocumented foreign nationals that are in employment, as they are difficult to track.
- There was a concern that government youth employment initiatives do not provide long-term job security.

## 6. SECOND AND THIRD INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

### 6.1. INDUSTRIALISATION AND EMPLOYMENT

*“Industrialisation and Employment - Supporting Industrial Development and Expanding Employment Opportunities to benefit the Youth”* - Mr. Luvuyo Msindwana: Owner, Msindwana Holdings (Waste Management and Recycling)

This session explored how industrialisation can serve as a powerful driver of youth employment and economic growth. It will feature insights from young entrepreneurs who have successfully built and sustained businesses in various sectors. Through their experiences, the discussion will highlight practical pathways for promoting industrial development and job creation for South Africa’s youth.

Mr. Msindwana founded Msindwana Holdings in 2016, focusing on waste management services and recycling. His journey reflects both the challenges and opportunities young entrepreneurs face in South Africa’s industrial and environmental sectors.

#### **Key Reflections and Recommendations:**

- **Understanding Industrialisation:** Industrialisation refers to the development and expansion of industries within a country, particularly in manufacturing, infrastructure, and processing sectors. It is a proven engine for job creation, economic diversification, and technological advancement.
- **Industrialisation and Youth Employment:** In many countries, industrialisation has been pivotal in reducing unemployment by absorbing large segments of the youth into skilled and semi-skilled jobs. South Africa can emulate best practices from other developing economies where industrial zones and targeted incentives have catalysed youth-led enterprise growth.
- **Reducing Red Tape:** Emerging businesses often struggle with excessive bureaucratic requirements related to company registration, SARS compliance, and labour regulations. Mr. Msindwana emphasized that government intervention is essential to streamline processes and eliminate administrative bottlenecks that hinder small business development.
- **Access to Funding:** While support for small businesses is welcomed, the slow disbursement of approved funding remains a significant barrier. There is a critical need

for the government to fast-track funding mechanisms to ensure timely and efficient support to youth-owned enterprises.

- **Role of B-BBEE:** Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) remains a vital tool for advancing black entrepreneurship. However, more practical support and accessible compliance processes are required to make BEE a more effective catalyst for inclusive industrial development.
- **Call to Action:** To realise the full potential of industrialisation, there must be coordinated efforts across government departments to:
  - Cut regulatory red tape,
  - Strengthen access to capital,
  - Promote technical skills development,
  - Support the growth of youth-owned enterprises in industrial and green economy sectors.

## 6.2. MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

This session was based on involving young people in shaping global policies. Discussions were guided by the following sub themes serving as headings below:

### 6.2.1. Building a Bold Future: Youth Economic Participation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity

Ms. Lolwethu Luthuli, IT Coordinator, Faculty of Business and Management Sciences, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, emphasised an increasing trend in youth unemployment alongside an increasing trend in population size.

Structural transformation was emphasised along with the need to de-colonise the curriculum to ensure that the youth are empowered with a mindset for the future to overcome the historical imbalances of South Africa's past. The argument was to put education first and to focus on amongst other aspects, the following: decolonise the curriculum; embed digital skills; invest in and respect TVET colleges; provision of devices and connectivity for all learners.

The discussion further noted the importance of literacy and languages, as not all official languages are being accommodated as a language of instruction. Besides supplying devices, is the follow up on skills being in place to make the best use of the said devices. Furthermore, after being engaged in skills training, there needs to be an opportunity to practice the skills

developed to ensure that such skills become embedded and serve as evidence in terms of experience in completing a task in a place of work.

### **6.2.2. Driving Africa's Future through Development, Inclusion, and Youth Empowerment**

Their/them. Busisiwe Nandipha Nxumalo - National Spokesperson, Embrace Diversity Movement argues that South Africa must lead human rights diplomacy across Africa. Remaining silent as anti-LGBTIQA+ laws spread is complicity. Inclusion must extend beyond borders. Collective responsibility for this must be taken:

- Civil society must advocate;
- Youth must lead;
- Departments must collaborate;
- Parliament must act; and
- All must uphold dignity and justice

Young people who are queer are often excluded from opportunities and there seems to be silence on international legislation which is anti LGBTIQA+. A key challenge highlighted is cultural and social acceptance

### **6.2.3. Nothing without us: Enabling economic participation of youth with disabilities, through structural reforms and participatory governance**

Ms Thembelihle Ngcai, representing Disabled Youth South Africa spoke eloquently in front of the podium with a roaming microphone, emphasising the challenges experienced by persons with disabilities. She alluded that these challenges ought to be accommodated by society at large.

The speaker emphasised the following:

- individuals with a disability are often spoken about but not always spoken with.
- Less than 10 percent access meaningful employment opportunities and related opportunities is not enough to address the disability challenges;
- Organisations have taken up the gap not filled by government linked to the disabled; and
- Good policies without budget are only a decoration.

The Eastern Cape Disabled Youth urge Parliament (beyond P20), under the historic G20 Presidency, to lead by example in upholding the intersectional dignity and agency of youth with disabilities. No transformation strategy is complete unless disabled youth are not only consulted but empowered to lead and co-implement.

#### **6.2.4. Involving Young People in Shaping Global Politics**

The SADC Youth Parliament, convened under the auspices of the Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYOF) and mentored by the SADC Parliamentary Forum, has articulated a case for embedding meaningful youth engagement in the design, implementation, and monitoring of global and regional policy frameworks. The submission underscores that youth are not only demographic majorities in the region but also carriers of innovation, energy, and lived experience, uniquely positioned to inform future-ready, inclusive governance.

**The Importance of Youth Engagement:** Youth engagement is positioned as a pillar of sustainable development and policy relevance, underpinned by four core principles:

- **Policy Relevance:** Young people face emerging global challenges, climate change, migration, and unemployment, first-hand. Their inclusion ensures that policies are rooted in present-day realities and future-focused solutions.
- **Sustainability:** Policies made today directly affect tomorrow's generation. By actively engaging youth, governments ensure greater long-term buy-in, intergenerational continuity, and public accountability.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** Youth bring digital fluency and innovative thinking critical to resolving complex socio-economic and environmental challenges. Their adaptability to new technologies makes them indispensable actors in developmental agendas.
- **Social Equity:** Engaging young people helps dismantle structural barriers that historically excluded them from policymaking. Inclusive governance promotes equity and representation of diverse youth perspectives, especially from marginalized communities.

**Regional and International Advocacy Efforts:** SADC Youth Parliamentarian Thakane Manong shared key milestones that illustrate the growing momentum for youth inclusion:

- In her role as Rapporteur of the Disability Rights, Gender, and Young Women Development Standing Committee, she engaged youth across 16 SADC countries to

discuss inclusive financing models and rights-based development strategies for persons with disabilities.

- She also represented the African Union and SADC Youth Parliament at the EU-AU CSO Youth Forum (20 May 2025), contributing to dialogues on migration and mobility, where she emphasized youth-responsive policies for integration, protection, and economic participation of young migrants.

These engagements exemplify the transformative impact of youth when provided structured platforms for policy influence.

**Recommendations for Institutionalizing Youth Engagement:** To transition from symbolic inclusion to meaningful participation, the SADC Youth Parliament recommends the following:

- **Institutional Representation:** Establish youth quotas and formal youth advisory bodies within government and multilateral institutions.
- **Capacity Building:** Support mentorship, civic education, and training to enhance youth contributions in governance and advocacy.
- **Accessible Platforms:** Ensure that rural, low-income, disabled, and marginalized youth have equitable access to engagement opportunities.
- **Accountability and Feedback Loops:** Establish transparent mechanisms that integrate youth inputs into policy outcomes and provide feedback on how such contributions shape decisions.
- **Funding and Support:** Allocate resources for travel, participation, training, and connectivity to enable effective youth engagement across all socio-economic backgrounds.

The SADC Youth Parliament reaffirms its commitment to championing youth-led development and inclusive policymaking across Southern Africa. It calls on global and regional institutions to move beyond rhetoric and meaningfully embed youth in decision-making structures, transforming policies from abstract commitments into instruments of empowerment and equity. Platforms like the P20 Youth Parliament and AU-EU dialogues offer vital models of what inclusive, youth-driven governance can and should look like.

### 6.3. OUTCOMES OF INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

Discussions were once again guided by the sub themes serving as headings below:

### 6.3.1. Industrialisation and Employment - Supporting Industrial Development and Expanding Employment Opportunities to benefit the Youth

Here are the key outcomes derived from Mr. Msindwana's presentation on industrialisation and employment:

- **Enhanced Understanding of Industrialisation:** Industrialisation was reaffirmed as a strategic driver for job creation, economic diversification, and technological advancement, especially for youth employment.
- **Promotion of Youth Participation in Industrial Sectors:** South Africa should adopt best practices from other developing nations by establishing industrial zones and targeted incentives to absorb youth into skilled and semi-skilled employment.
- **Streamlining Regulatory Frameworks:** Excessive red tape and compliance burdens (e.g., SARS, labour registration) were identified as key barriers to youth entrepreneurship. A call was made for government to simplify processes to facilitate business entry and sustainability.
- **Accelerated Funding Support for Youth Enterprises:** While funding mechanisms exist, delays in disbursement hinder growth. A recommendation was made for government to **fast-track funding approval and distribution** for small and youth-owned businesses.
- **Strengthening B-BBEE Implementation:** While BEE is an important policy instrument, its practical impact is diluted by inaccessible compliance processes. Simplified and supportive BEE frameworks are needed to empower black youth entrepreneurs.
- **Integrated Government Support for Youth Industrialisation:** A coordinated, multi-departmental approach is required to:
  - Cut regulatory red tape,
  - Improve access to capital,
  - Boost technical and industrial skills training,
  - Scale up support for youth-led enterprises, particularly in the green and environmental sectors.

### **6.3.2. Building a Bold Future: Youth Economic Participation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity**

Ms. Lolwethu Luthuli, IT Coordinator, Faculty of Business and Management Sciences, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, asked how deep are youth involved in decision-making? Emphasising that beyond legislatures, what is happening at the level of government and industry leaders' offices.

Areas argued through which youth can be empowered were presented as follows:

- Political representation
- Mental and physical health
- Education and professional training
- Economy and employment
- Culture and sports
- Considering enhancing youth participation and representation, the key sectors that need to be focused on to reduce youth exclusion and ensure their effective and balanced representation include:
  - Civil society and non-governmental organizations
  - Armed forces and security sector
  - Governance and politics
  - Scientific research, innovation and technology
  - Other areas

Overall, the answer is not more policy. It is implementation, inclusive, funded, youth-driven and Pan-African in its outlook.

### **6.3.3. Driving Africa's Future through Development, Inclusion, and Youth Empowerment**

Their/them. Busisiwe Nandipha Nxumalo, National Spokesperson, Embrace Diversity Movement stated that we have a choice: uphold the status quo or pursue real justice. Let us not fail the youth who are watching. The time to act is now. The responsibility is ours. What We Need, according to the speaker, is the following five (5) Solutions:

- Institutionalise queer youth participation
- Enforce hate crimes legislation
- Inclusive education and affirming healthcare

- Use foreign policy to defend rights
- Fund grassroots-led safe spaces

The speaker made the following recommendations specifically to the legislative sector:

- Mention LGBTIQA+ youth in policy
- Oversee law implementation
- Promote rights in diplomacy
- Fund inclusive education and shelters
- Champion civil society partners

The speaker emphasised that it is, in addition to youth month, international pride month, which also demands representation. The speaker asks if there are any programmes linked to pride month during youth month championed by the state.

#### **6.3.4. Nothing without us: Enabling economic participation of youth with disabilities, through structural reforms and participatory governance**

The Eastern Cape Disabled Youth recommend that South Africa institutionalise:

- Seats for DYSA/DPSA in working groups, oversight delegations, and executive advisory panels.
- Legislate funding for DPO-driven youth employment projects.
- Annual Youth Disability Reports to be tabled in Parliament and provincial legislatures.

The Eastern Cape Disabled Youth further urged for the establishment of Disability Implementation Hubs, the implementation of a Youth Disability Inclusion Scorecard across all initiatives implemented in South Africa, and to enforce representation of youth with disabilities at all institutional levels.

The submission closes with a decisive call: "Nothing about us without us' is no longer enough. The call is: *With us. At the centre. With power.* Let us stop managing disability and start governing it, co-constructing a world that includes us all."

#### **6.3.5. Involving Young People in Shaping Global Politics**

The SADC recommends that for strengthening youth engagement to institutionalize meaningful youth engagement in global policy processes, the following steps are essential:

- **Institutional Representation:** Governments and global institutions must create formal mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making bodies, such as youth advisory councils and youth quotas in delegations.
- **Capacity Building:** Investing in the skills and knowledge of young people enhances their ability to effectively contribute to policy development. Initiatives such as mentorship programs and youth-specific training on governance and advocacy are key.
- **Accessible Platforms:** Engagement opportunities must be inclusive, prioritizing accessibility for marginalized youth, including those from rural areas, low-income backgrounds, and minority groups.
- **Accountability and Feedback:** Institutions must ensure that youth contributions are acknowledged and reflected in Southern Africa Youth Forum policy outcomes. Mechanisms for feedback and transparent decision-making are essential in building trust between youth and policymakers.
- **Funding and Support:** Adequate resources should be allocated to enable young people to actively participate in policy processes, particularly for travel, training, and networking opportunities.

#### 6.4. Q & A (INTERACTIVE SESSION)

During the sessions, participants raised a range of critical questions and opinions reflecting their lived experiences, concerns, and proposals for improving youth development initiatives.

The following key issues were addressed:

- Concerns were raised that poor policy implementation is often the result of ineffective monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Participants expected regional bodies such as SADC to play a more visible role in addressing global geopolitical tensions impacting youth.
- Participants criticised the NYDA for poor administration and a lack of responsiveness. One participant shared their experience of applying for a youth business training programme without ever receiving a response, despite follow-ups.
- There were concerns about inadequate coordination in implementing youth services and programmes.
- Questions were raised about how the NYDA could be held accountable and how its performance could be improved to better fulfil its mandate.

- Participants also questioned what recourse was available when youth experienced challenges with the NYDA.
- Concerns were raised about the absence of structured political education in society, limiting the ability of youth to critically engage and take ownership of national development.
- Participants highlighted a shortage of trained educators and healthcare workers capable of identifying and supporting learning disabilities.
- A lack of schools for learners with disabilities in township areas was identified as a major gap.
- Stigma and workplace discrimination against persons with disabilities were also flagged as ongoing concerns.
- Participants expressed concern over the lack of practical, hands-on learning in the school curriculum, particularly in technical and vocational areas from Grade 10 onwards.
- There was concern about the absence of stipends or structured opportunities for graduates to gain work experience while earning an income, especially given that many job opportunities require both qualifications and experience.
- Suggestions were made to incorporate practical experience directly into higher education curricula.
- Concerns were raised about the lack of meaningful youth involvement in decision-making structures at local and regional levels, limiting opportunities to cultivate young leaders.
- Participants emphasised that township revitalisation remains a critical but underdeveloped priority, with minimal evidence of transformation or meaningful support reaching local youth entrepreneurs.
- The administrative and regulatory landscape was identified as a major obstacle, with excessive red tape, fragmented processes, and a lack of coordination hindering access to business opportunities and resources for young people in township settings.
- Concrete support structures for township-based youth entrepreneurs remain limited, with existing mechanisms often inaccessible, poorly coordinated, and ineffective in addressing the practical needs of young business owners.
- There was a clear call for streamlined, youth-responsive administrative systems that reduce bureaucratic burdens related to business registration, tax compliance, and funding applications.

- The lack of disaggregated data on youth entrepreneurship and job creation in townships was flagged as a major oversight. Participants urged for demographic-specific reporting to track the impact and reach of existing youth-focused interventions.

## **7. SESSION 2: SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EDUCATION ACCESS**

The scheduled presenter for this session from the South African Union of Students (SAUS) was not in attendance. It was reported that the term of office of the South African Union of Students (SAUS) Executive had concluded, and that a process to appoint a new executive was underway.

In the absence of a formal presentation, this section consolidates and highlights key challenges and recommendations related to youth access to education, drawn from various other presentations delivered during the P20 Youth Parliament. The inputs included were selected for their relevance to the theme and reflect the broader concerns raised by multiple stakeholders. This consolidation is intended to provide a comprehensive and representative overview of the issues discussed.

### **7.1. Key challenges identified**

The challenges outlined below were compiled from contributions made by various stakeholders as below:

- Limited access to data and connectivity restricts access to university, TVET college, and Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) application platforms.
- The education system, from Early Childhood Development (ECD) through to higher education, does not adequately prepare young people for the demands of the world of work.
- The government's discontinuation of artisan skills training colleges has reduced access to vocational skills development.
- Between 2013/14 and 2023/24, SETA expenditure grew at an average rate of 6.74%. However, this increase in funding has not translated into significant reductions in youth unemployment.
- SETAs' poor performance in placing university students in workplaces reflects a major disconnect between academic training and employment opportunities.
- Learners with learning barriers are not receiving appropriate support due to the severe shortage of educational psychologists and the absence of learner assessments or intervention strategies.
- Despite protective legislation, implementation failures, particularly in the Eastern Cape, continue to marginalize youth with disabilities across education, skills development, employment, and entrepreneurship sectors.

- Fewer than 0.5 per cent of recipients of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) are students with disabilities, despite the existence of ring-fenced funding provisions.
- The 2022 Auditor-General's Report flagged 41% of public schools in the Eastern Cape as non-compliant with physical accessibility norms and standards.

## **7.2. Key outcomes and recommendations**

The following recommendations and outcomes have been drawn from a range of other presentations delivered during the session.

While no dedicated presentation on youth access to education was made due to the conclusion of the SAUS Executive's term, these inputs reflect the broader concerns and proposals raised by various stakeholders throughout the deliberations. They are presented here to ensure that the discussion on youth education remains comprehensive, actionable, and representative of the issues raised:

- Decolonise the curriculum to integrate digital skills and make education more relevant to current and future economic demands.
- Invest in the development of digital infrastructure, with a particular focus on townships and schools, to facilitate the adoption of new technologies and the integration of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) education.
- Increase investment in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to expand access to alternative skills pathways.
- Restore and adequately fund artisan skills training colleges to develop technical capacity among young people.
- Shift policy focus from purely academic achievement toward practical, on-the-job training as a key strategy to combat youth unemployment.
- Ensure that all learners are provided with learning devices and connectivity to enable equitable access to digital education platforms.
- To address the current gaps, allocate funding to support young people pursuing careers as educational psychologists.
- National Treasury should ensure that conditional grants to the Eastern Cape Department of Education are utilised for universal design infrastructure upgrades across all quintile schools.

- Enforcement of a minimum 5% disability inclusion threshold across SETAs, should be monitored through regular reviews by the relevant Parliamentary Portfolio Committees.

## 8. WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

### 8.1. Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) Young Workers Forum

COSATU Young Workers emphasised their commitment to addressing the social ills affecting young people, particularly youth unemployment, gender-based violence (GBV), substance abuse, and teenage pregnancy. They called for inclusive economic strategies that focus not only on urban areas but also on marginalised communities. Key concerns included:

- Poor departmental responsiveness on youth, women, and disability matters.
- High rates of poverty and GBV.
- Inequity in access to sustainable jobs and resources.
- Foreign nationals perceived as prioritised over local youth in SMME development.
- Underutilization of abandoned factories.
- The need for Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) to prioritise skills development aligned with national industrialisation goals.

#### Industrialization and Employment

COSATU acknowledges the dual impact of industrialisation:

- **Negative:** Displacement of certain workers due to automation and sector shifts.
- **Positive:** New job creation and economic diversification.

To harness its benefits:

- Upskilling and reskilling of workers are essential.
- More specialised schools and STEM education (e.g. coding, robotics) should be promoted.
- Technology innovation competitions are encouraged.
- Industrialisation can combat food scarcity by creating agribusiness job opportunities.

#### Meaningful Youth Engagement

Youth should:

- Actively engage in policy discourse through civil society networks.
- Collaborate across shared goals to influence global policies, including G20 matters.
- Participate in mentorship programmes to enhance workplace and societal participation.
- Use social media for awareness-building and policy advocacy.

### **Inclusive Social Development**

Challenges identified:

- High unemployment and HIV rates among youth.
- Increased workplace absenteeism due to health issues.
- Need for workplace HIV education and support systems.

Solutions proposed:

- Empower unskilled youth through structured upskilling pathways.
- Address the gender pay gap and promote salary negotiation skills among young women.
- Improve reproductive health education and access to healthcare for youth.
- Enhance support for child-headed households.

### **African Development**

COSATU calls for:

- Shifting from exporting raw materials to producing finished goods.
- Regional trade at preferential rates within Africa.
- Monitoring progress on African Union Agenda 2063.
- Strengthening Africa's position in global health and education systems.

### **Universal Access to Education**

- Free basic education should be a global priority to uplift the poor.
- Address classroom overcrowding and learner neglect.
- Prioritize literacy and numeracy at the foundational level.
- Equip teachers continuously and align curricula with employability skills.
- Harmonize G20 education systems for mutual recognition of youth qualifications and mobility.
- Promote accountability among G20 nations for youth-friendly policies.

COSATU Young Workers look forward to effective deliberations and resolutions at the P20 Youth Parliament. They stress that youth challenges such as unemployment, GBV, and poverty are national crises requiring urgent action. Their message: "NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US" – Aluta continua.

## 8.2. National Union of Mineworkers (Num) Youth Structure

NUM views the P20 Youth Parliament not as a symbolic event, but as a political intervention under South Africa's G20 Presidency. The union calls for real change that prioritises working-class youth through decent work, skills development, social support, and accountability. Youth are seen as present agents of change, not just future leaders.

South Africa's youth face intersecting crises: unemployment, poor education, mental health struggles, and social exclusion. NUM criticises the current education and health systems for failing youth and argues for a new, coordinated, and accountable development agenda that centers working-class realities. NUM affirms its historic mission to uplift marginalised youth, especially in mining, rural, and industrial zones. The NUM Youth Desk advocates for education reform, skills investment, and workplace rights.

The submission aligns with the *National Youth Policy (2020–2030)* and NUM's internal resolutions, which promote youth participation in policy, collective bargaining, and skills development across sectors.

South Africa's 2025 G20 Presidency and the P20 Summit offer a critical opportunity to reshape youth policy. NUM warns against elite-led, technocratic agendas and calls for a Global South, working-class-centred approach.

- **G20 Presidency and P20 Summit:** NUM urges that the G20 platform be used to tackle youth poverty and wage inequality with bold commitments.
- **Youth Challenges in the MECM Sectors:** NUM identifies systemic exclusion of youth from mining, energy, construction, and metals due to:
  - Collapsed skills pipeline
  - Retrenchments and lack of investment
  - Exclusion from Just Transition and decision-making forums
- **Strategic Importance of Youth Parliament:** The P20 Youth Parliament is framed as a battleground for youth and labour voice, not a symbolic engagement.

### G20-Aligned Priorities: Labour Perspective

- **Inclusive Economic Growth:** NUM criticises “jobless growth” and calls for public-sector-led, redistributive, wage-led development.
- **Industrialisation and Employment:** Young workers are marginalised. NUM proposes:

- Youth absorption into core mining jobs
- Worker-controlled beneficiation
- Youth co-ownership of new mineral and energy projects
- **Meaningful Youth Engagement:** Current structures are seen as symbolic. NUM calls for institutionalised youth worker forums with decision-making power.
- **Inclusive Social Development:** NUM supports:
  - A Universal Basic Income Grant (UBIG)
  - Expanded TVET colleges
  - Structural, not charitable—social programmes
- **African Development:** Warns that AfCFTA could become extractive. Proposes:
  - Youth-led cooperatives
  - Cross-border training
  - Regional worker-controlled productive capacity
- **Universal Access to Education:** TVET reform is urgent. NUM calls for:
  - Mandatory technical education from Grade 8
  - Union-industry-aligned curricula
  - Public resourcing of training centres

### NUM Youth Development Priorities and Proposals

- **Decent Jobs:** Rejects exploitative internships. Calls for unionised, regulated, permanent youth jobs.
- **Skills Pipeline and Artisan Training:** Proposes:
  - State-funded mining/energy colleges
  - Public ownership of artisan training
- **Social Protection and Mental Health:** Proposes:
  - UBIG for unemployed youth
  - Mental health services in mining towns
- **Labour Rights:** Interns must be covered by labour laws. Calls for youth desks in bargaining councils.
- **Green Economy and Just Transition:** Youth should be co-owners in renewables. Advocates for skills hubs in green tech.
- **Collective Bargaining for Youth:** Legislation should mandate youth representation in unions, SOEs, and training bodies.

**Recommendations for the Medium-Term Youth Development Agenda:** NUM asserts the MTYDA must be, redistributive, worker-led, and grounded in structural reform.

### **Policy Reform Proposals**

- 30% youth employment quotas
- Reform of Skills Development Act to empower unions
- Rebuilding public technical colleges
- Procurement tied to youth employment
- Labour protection for interns and apprentices

### **Stakeholder Partnerships**

- Youth Employment Council co-chaired by labour
- Youth presence in local economic forums
- Binding private-sector compacts with penalties

### **Oversight Mechanisms**

- Parliamentary oversight on youth employment
- Corporate transparency on youth employment stats
- Community-led social audits of TVET and placement programmes

### **Role of Trade Unions**

- Youth committees at workplaces
- Youth clauses in collective agreements
- Collaboration with educational institutions for curriculum design

NUM rejects tokenism. The union reaffirms its revolutionary role in building youth power through structural change and socialist principles. It commits to mobilising and organising for a youth agenda rooted in solidarity and economic justice.

### **8.3. United African Transformation – Task Force (UAT-TF)**

The UAT-TF is a Pan-African movement committed to restoring the dignity of African people by addressing poverty, hunger, and the socio-economic legacy of slavery, colonisation, and apartheid. The movement calls for development rooted in justice, land access, and the dismantling of exploitative systems that continue to marginalise African youth.

**Land Expropriation and Access**

- Land is presented as the foundation for economic activity and national development.
- True youth economic participation depends on access to land for farming, building, and resource extraction.
- Young people must be supported with the necessary tools, training, and mentorship to become economic contributors rather than passive observers.

**Education and Skills Development**

- The UAT-TF advocates for decolonised, quality education that empowers youth to be self-reliant, sustainable, and economically active.
- The current education system must be overhauled to eliminate dependence on foreign systems and focus on skills that improve local economic output.
- Emphasis is placed on practical, technical, and productive skills over those that reinforce dependence on the capitalist economy.

**Social and Family Values**

- The breakdown of African social and family values is seen as a root cause of moral and economic decline.
- A call is made for moral regeneration to rebuild character, self-reliance, and a sense of responsibility among African youth.
- Rebuilding values is essential for forming individuals who can contribute meaningfully to their families, communities, and economies.

**Peace and Security**

- A safe and peaceful environment is essential for meaningful youth economic participation.
- Economic activity must be free from threats or violence that hinder productivity.
- Peace and security are inseparable and must be prioritised to enable youth to thrive economically.

This agenda strongly links youth development to systemic transformation, land justice, moral revival, and educational reform, positioning African youth as central agents in economic development and national renewal.

#### **8.4. University of the Western Cape Student Representative Council (UWC SRC)**

In its submission, the Student Representative Council (SRC) of the University of the Western Cape (UWC) highlighted the following key points:

##### **Inclusive Economic Growth**

The UWC SRC calls for radical economic transformation to dismantle apartheid-era economic structures. It argues for stronger Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) laws and closer parliamentary and executive oversight of corporate transformation. The submission emphasises support for the informal and small business sector, warning against its erosion by monopoly capital. Economic growth must be inclusive and ensure that all sectors contribute to transformation.

##### **Industrialisation and Employment**

The submission links high youth unemployment to the underutilization of South Africa's natural resources. It argues for expanded industrialisation, specifically the local manufacturing of goods, to reduce dependency on imports. Government must enact pro-industrial policies that favour local manufacturers and reduce the export of raw materials. Industrial development is seen as essential for sustainable employment creation.

##### **Meaningful Youth Engagement**

The SRC stresses the principle of "nothing about us without us." Youth must be meaningfully included in the shaping of global and national policies. This includes structured dialogues and consultations with youth in universities, communities, and other spaces. The submission calls for the direct involvement of youth in all decisions affecting their futures.

##### **Inclusive Social Development**

Government must implement proactive measures to improve the social development of historically disadvantaged communities. This includes universal access to healthcare, housing, education, and nutrition, as well as sports and recreation programmes in black communities. Reducing inequality requires both state intervention and support from privileged sectors of society.

##### **African Development**

UWC SRC aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063, calling for interstate cooperation in economic, cultural, and security matters. It asserts that Africa's development must be driven

from within and that the AU should play a stronger unifying role. Key themes include Pan-Africanism, good governance, democracy, peace, and human rights.

### **Universal Access to Education**

The submission argues that higher education must be universally accessible and free for all academically qualifying students. It criticizes the NSFAS model for excluding the "missing middle", students who don't qualify for NSFAS or student loans. It also points out that postgraduate students are left unfunded. The SRC urges government to reallocate public funds to achieve free, quality education for all.

## 9. STATEMENTS: PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES

### 9.1. The Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature

The Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature delegate reflected on the recent floods that devastated infrastructure and livelihoods across the province, noting that emergency recovery efforts were underway. Despite these setbacks, the Legislature affirmed its understanding of Youth Parliament as a critical platform for public advocacy and civic engagement. The province continues to face stagnant economic growth and high youth unemployment. In response, the Premier has introduced several initiatives, including:

- Skills development programmes in partnership with SETAs;
- A provincial Basic Employment Initiative targeting 28,000 youth;
- A culinary training programme for youth with disabilities; and
- A student debt relief fund of R70 million.

The delegate stressed the need for strong parliamentary oversight to ensure effective implementation and noted the province's legacy as an apartheid-era labour reserve, which has left a lasting impact on its economic trajectory.

### 9.2. The Free State Provincial Legislature

The Free State Provincial Legislature delegate opposed the view that labour migration to foreign countries should be a solution to youth unemployment, arguing it would result in exploitation and alienation. Instead, the province expressed strong support for the Youth Parliament's recommendations and highlighted its focus on:

- Strengthening SMMEs, particularly in agriculture;
- Promoting local beneficiation of mining resources; and
- Ensuring that skills development initiatives are well-funded.

The delegate welcomed the skills revolution supported by BRICS as a potential opportunity for youth empowerment.

### 9.3. Gauteng Provincial Legislature

The Gauteng Provincial Legislature delegate outlined the following youth development priorities:

- Advancing the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) as a strategic pillar of youth empowerment.
- Establishing a uniform, professionalised, and focused budget for youth development across all spheres of government.
- Promoting access to quality and sustainable employment opportunities, including initiatives such as AmaPanyaza.
- Recognising and supporting young people as job creators.
- Strengthening support for Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), with a particular focus on the informal and township economy.
- Ensuring the full inclusion of persons with disabilities and members of the LGBTQIA+ community in both rural and urban development strategies.
- Enhancing coordination and collaboration among key stakeholders involved in youth development.

#### **9.4. KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature**

KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature delegate acknowledged the inspiring nature of the Youth Parliament and pledged to do more to uplift the youth. The province remains one of the most dynamic but also deeply affected by unemployment, inequality, and poverty. Alarming, 60% of young people in the province are not in education, employment, or training. The Legislature called for:

- Urgent action to align youth skills development with opportunities in tourism, agriculture, technology, and renewable energy;
- Greater resourcing of TVET colleges to meet market and community needs;
- Support for youth entrepreneurship, including reducing red tape; and
- Private sector partnerships, particularly in townships and rural areas.

The delegate concluded that no young person's future should be defined by their place of birth and praised the role of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in driving change in the province.

#### **9.5. Limpopo Provincial Legislature**

Marking the 50th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Uprising, the Limpopo delegation reflected on the responsibility of today's youth to carry forward the legacy of past struggles through

action. Key challenges include high youth unemployment and the export of unprocessed minerals. The Legislature called for:

- The establishment of beneficiation industries near mining sites;
- Leveraging Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to create over 21,000 jobs;
- Enhanced support for youth entrepreneurs;
- Investment in agro-processing, especially for youth-led businesses; and
- Empowerment of youth to participate in tourism, hospitality, and digital content linked to the province's rich natural and cultural heritage.

### **9.6. Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature**

The Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature delegate stressed the importance of early financial and legal literacy and advocated for skills alignment between higher education institutions and local economies. With a provincial economy heavily reliant on coal mining, the Legislature called for:

- Transparency and consequence management in state contracting;
- Climate-smart business support for youth-led enterprises;
- Enforcement of the 30% local beneficiary clause;
- Stronger immigration regulation to protect local labour markets; and
- Increased support for SAPS youth desks and community safety programmes.

Housing and reproductive health services, along with policies that foster youth inclusion in law enforcement and economic development, were also prioritised.

### **9.7. The Northern Cape Provincial Legislature**

The Northern Cape Provincial Legislature delegate lamented that socio-economic exclusion continues to betray the spirit of the 1976 youth. Youth poverty in the province is exacerbated by poor education outcomes and unfulfilled promises tied to mega-projects. The Legislature called for:

- Educational reforms to improve matric outcomes;
- Job creation beyond election promises;
- Youth-centred development in the renewable energy sector; and
- Support for sustainable youth enterprises, not temporary or symbolic interventions.

The delegation concluded by emphasising that honouring the youth of 1976 requires concrete action to empower today's young people.

#### **9.8. The North-West Provincial Legislature**

No delegate was present from the North-West provincial legislature during the session.

#### **9.9. The Western Cape Provincial Legislature**

No delegate was present from the Western Cape provincial legislature during the session.

## 10. STATEMENTS BY POLITICAL PARTIES

### 10.1. African National Congress (ANC)

The African National Congress (ANC) remains committed to addressing the socio-economic crises facing South Africa's youth, including entrenched inequality, high unemployment, and lack of access to resources. This Youth Development Agenda outlines key policy priorities to drive inclusive development and empower the youth as central actors in the country's transformation.

**Re-Industrialisation and De-Financialisation:** South Africa's economy has experienced prolonged de-industrialisation, with a significant decline in the manufacturing sector's contribution to GDP. This has eroded job-creating capacity and deepened inequality. The ANC proposes a strategic shift towards re-industrialisation, prioritising domestic production, value-added beneficiation, and the revival of key industries. Simultaneously, the financial sector must be transformed to play a more developmental role, channelling capital into productive sectors rather than speculative activity. Addressing high market concentration and supporting youth-owned SMEs are central to this structural reform.

**Youth Employment and Skills Development:** With youth unemployment exceeding 50%, urgent action is required to equip young people with relevant skills and link them to employment opportunities. The ANC advocates for the expansion of vocational training, internships, and apprenticeships in growth sectors such as construction, healthcare, ICT, and renewable energy. These interventions must be accessible across rural and urban communities and aligned to industry demand. Long-term employment strategies must be integrated with economic planning to absorb new entrants into the labour market.

**Land Reform and Access:** Access to land remains a fundamental issue for economic inclusion, particularly for youth in agriculture and agro-processing. The ANC calls for the acceleration of land reform programmes to provide equitable access to agricultural and urban land for youth enterprises. Targeted support, such as low-interest loans and agricultural finance, must be prioritised to unlock the productive potential of rural provinces. Land reform should also address spatial inequalities inherited from apartheid and facilitate urban livelihoods and entrepreneurship.

**Digital Economy and Skills:** The digital economy offers a transformative opportunity for youth participation in the global economy. However, access to digital infrastructure and skills remains unequal. The ANC proposes nationwide training programmes in coding, data analysis, cybersecurity, and digital marketing, aimed at preparing youth for technology-driven industries. These initiatives should include public-private partnerships and leverage community training hubs to ensure inclusivity and scalability.

**Green Economy and Climate Resilience:** Youth must be central to the transition toward a green economy. Climate-resilient infrastructure development should prioritise vulnerable communities, ensuring that the shift to sustainability does not exacerbate existing inequalities. The ANC supports developing local manufacturing capabilities for renewable energy components and mapping strategic minerals needed for green technologies. Youth involvement in climate finance, green enterprise, and sustainability innovation must be actively supported through education and enterprise development.

**Education Reform:** Access to quality education remains unequal, with rural and marginalised youth often excluded from meaningful learning opportunities. The ANC calls for investment in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) colleges and expanded funding for tertiary education, especially for the rural poor. Education must be reformed to meet the demands of the modern economy, with curricula aligned to emerging sectors and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Support systems must also be strengthened to improve completion rates and lifelong learning.

**Financial Sector Transformation and State Bank:** The financial services sector holds vast reserves but remains exclusionary, particularly for youth and black-owned enterprises. The ANC calls for the establishment of a State Bank and provincial financial institutions to increase access to affordable credit and developmental finance. Regulatory reforms must address the dominance of large financial institutions and promote inclusive financial practices. A restructured financial ecosystem should prioritise youth entrepreneurship, especially in rural and underserved communities.

**Small Enterprise Development:** Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are key drivers of job creation and innovation. The ANC proposes the creation of a robust support system for youth-led SMEs, including access to start-up capital, micro-grants, and business development services. This ecosystem should facilitate mentorship, market access, and incubation

services. A focus on township and rural economies is essential to ensure that youth enterprise development contributes to equitable growth and localised economic transformation.

**Trade and Industrial Policy:** Trade policies must be leveraged to protect and advance youth enterprises. The ANC recommends renegotiating or crafting trade agreements that protect infant industries and promote local production. Platforms must be created to connect youth entrepreneurs with chambers of commerce, trade expos, and international partners. Ensuring youth representation in trade dialogues will amplify their role in economic diplomacy and global markets.

## **10.2. Democratic Alliance (DA)**

The Democratic Alliance (DA), guided by the principles of Freedom, Fairness, Opportunity, and Diversity, presents its Youth Development Agenda with a focus on sustainable economic growth, social inclusion, and youth empowerment. This submission aligns with the six thematic areas of the 2025 P20 Youth Parliament and outlines practical, scalable proposals grounded in the DA's governance experience.

**Inclusive Economic Growth:** The DA envisions a vibrant economy where young South Africans can meaningfully participate in job creation and entrepreneurship. To achieve this, the party proposes the implementation of a youth wage subsidy and the introduction of a Youth Employment Opportunity Certificate to incentivize businesses to hire young people. The establishment of "Opportunity Zones" in rural and township economies is proposed to stimulate investment and development in under-served areas.

Furthermore, the DA seeks to streamline business registration processes and reduce red tape, making it easier for youth to establish and formalize their enterprises. These measures aim to foster inclusive growth and reduce the systemic barriers that often exclude youth from economic participation.

**Industrialisation and Employment:** Recognising the importance of industrial policy in job creation, the DA supports a modern re-industrialisation strategy anchored in green economy transitions and circular economy models. This includes fostering green manufacturing, reducing waste, and embracing sustainability.

The DA proposes the expansion of TVET colleges through strategic partnerships with the private sector, ensuring curricula align with labour market demands. This approach ensures that training leads to actual employment opportunities in sectors such as renewable energy, manufacturing, and logistics.

**Meaningful Youth Engagement:** To ensure democratic processes are representative and participatory, the DA proposes the institutionalisation of Youth Parliaments at local, provincial, and national levels. These platforms should feed into policymaking and oversight mechanisms to give young people real influence.

In response to the growing importance of digital platforms, the DA advocates for the creation of a National Youth Digital Democracy Platform, enabling youth to engage in policy consultations, submit e-petitions, and participate in reviews. Additionally, the party calls for youth representation in international delegations, particularly on matters relating to education, trade, climate change, and innovation.

**Inclusive Social Development:** Acknowledging the socio-economic exclusion many youths face, particularly in marginalised communities, the DA promotes a development agenda centred on human dignity, inclusion, and responsive governance. Key interventions include scaling community-based healthcare services, mental health programmes, and addiction support services tailored to youth needs.

The party also supports the integration of housing, transport, and recreational infrastructure in poor urban and peri-urban areas, aimed at creating safer, inclusive, and opportunity-rich environments for young people.

**African Development and Agenda 2063 Alignment:** The DA champions the role of youth in Africa's continental development. It calls for the creation of youth-led African innovation hubs, supported in partnership with the African Continental Free Trade Area and other regional bodies. To strengthen educational and cultural exchange, the DA proposes cross-border student exchange programmes aligned with the African Union's Continental Education Strategy. Furthermore, the DA supports the development and adoption of a Continental Youth Charter that institutionalizes youth participation in all AU member states and organs.

**Universal Access to Education:** The DA proposes a holistic education strategy that includes reconfiguring higher education funding through a sustainable student loan guarantee model

supported by public-private partnerships. This would expand access while ensuring fiscal sustainability.

To improve learning outcomes and accessibility, especially for rural and working youth, the DA calls for the expansion of digital and blended learning platforms. Early education must be strengthened by reinforcing literacy and numeracy via transparent performance contracts with provincial education departments.

A notable innovation is the National Skills Passport system, which would recognise informal learning, skills development, and micro-credentials, improving youth mobility and employability across the SADC region.

**Youth Empowerment Initiatives:** The DA promotes the Young Leaders Programme, a fully funded development initiative for South Africans aged 18–35 who share the party’s core values. This programme seeks to build a pipeline of capable, ethical, and policy-oriented young leaders. It complements the broader vision of equipping youth with the tools, networks, and platforms to influence public discourse and governance.

### **10.3. uMkhonto weSizwe (MK)**

**Key priorities or recommendation as outlined in the statement were as follows:**

- Addressing youth unemployment.
- Inability of the current government to implement policies that provide opportunities for youth development.
- Policies in place that are relevant to needs of youth.
- Proposals: Youth should consider belonging to MK so that the party can obtain majority and be able to be in government.

### **10.4. Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF)**

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) submitted a wide-ranging policy proposal aimed at tackling youth unemployment, stimulating inclusive economic growth, and advancing economic freedom for young people. Rooted in a radical, anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist ideology, and drawing from Marxist-Leninist and Fanonian traditions, the submission positions youth as central to the broader struggle for economic emancipation.

### **Job Creation and Economic Transformation**

To address South Africa's high youth unemployment, the EFF proposes the establishment of several state-owned enterprises in housing, roads, security, cleaning, horticulture, and landscaping, together projected to create over 7 million sustainable jobs. Additional job creation proposals include:

- The creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), offering tax incentives and infrastructure support to investors who create and sustain a minimum of 2,000 jobs per factory.
- Legislation to ensure that 80% of state-procured goods and 50% of mineral beneficiation are locally produced to stimulate domestic industries.
- The development of sustainable food processing zones, agro-fishing businesses, and support for small-scale farming, especially in coastal communities.
- The promotion of import substitution and the development of basic goods industries such as textiles, electronics, solar products, and energy-efficient building materials.
- Strategic support for SMMEs, coupled with legal protections for street traders and informal workers.

### **Youth Development and Economic Inclusion**

The EFF calls for legislative and institutional reforms to prioritise youth in employment and economic participation. Key proposals include:

- Making it compulsory for government departments and public institutions to allocate 40% of their workforce and 50% of their procurement to youth (ages 18–35).
- Amending the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) to require SOEs to procure at least 40% of goods from youth-owned enterprises.
- Introducing a Monthly Job-Seeking Allowance for unemployed youth and establishing a Youth Loan Guarantee Scheme to support youth entrepreneurship, conditional on job creation.
- Reforming the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to ensure independence and allocating at least 50% of its R2 billion budget to women-led youth initiatives.
- Decentralising youth agencies to improve outreach and providing accessible career and skills development resources across communities.
- Requiring private firms and corporations to employ a minimum of 35% of their workforce from the youth demographic.

### **Pillars of Economic Emancipation**

The EFF's proposals are framed by seven non-negotiable pillars that guide its broader political project:

1. Land expropriation without compensation for equitable redistribution.
2. Nationalisation of mines, banks, and strategic sectors without compensation.
3. Building state capacity and abolishing the tender system.
4. Universal access to quality education, healthcare, housing, and sanitation.
5. Massive industrialisation supported by minimum wage legislation to reduce inequality.
6. Pan-African economic development, shifting from reconciliation to justice on the continent.
7. An open, accountable, and corruption-free state that upholds civil liberties and protects against institutional victimisation.

### **10.5. Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP)**

The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) emphasises that addressing youth unemployment is not only a moral and economic priority but also a matter of national stability and security. The party urges Parliament to adopt a coherent and accountable youth development agenda grounded in practical interventions, institutional oversight, and the empowerment of young people across all sectors.

**Youth Skills Development and Education Reform:** The IFP advocates for a skills revolution through targeted investments in vocational and technical education, particularly in partnership with TVET colleges and the private sector. These collaborations are essential to ensure that training is responsive to real-world labour market demands.

Furthermore, the IFP proposes the integration of entrepreneurship modules into the school curriculum from Grade 10 onwards, fostering a culture of innovation and self-reliance from a young age. A key focus is also placed on improving educational infrastructure and teaching quality in rural and township schools, especially in historically under-resourced provinces such as KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. These reforms aim to ensure equal access to quality education and career-readiness across geographic and socio-economic divides.

**Youth Entrepreneurship and Economic Participation:** The IFP highlights youth entrepreneurship as a critical engine for job creation and economic inclusion. The party calls for the expansion of youth-targeted micro-finance and grant funding and recommends that the

application processes for SEDA and NYDA funding be simplified to reduce bureaucratic barriers.

A flagship recommendation is the creation of Youth Enterprise Zones in each province, where youth-owned businesses can benefit from tax incentives and streamlined regulation. Additionally, the IFP proposes that local government procurement be strategically directed toward youth cooperatives and small enterprises, thereby increasing access to public sector supply chains and building economic resilience from the ground up.

**Public Employment and Job Placement:** To combat persistent unemployment, the IFP proposes the establishment of a National Youth Apprenticeship Programme, targeting key infrastructure sectors such as water, energy, and roads. This initiative is aimed at creating structured, on-the-job training and employment pathways for unemployed youth.

Moreover, the party recommends the enforcement of a 50% youth representation quota in public employment schemes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and Presidential Stimulus Programmes. National departments and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) should also be mandated to offer structured internships and learnerships, ensuring that every public entity contributes to youth workforce development.

**Inclusive Digital Economy:** Recognising the transformative potential of the digital economy, the IFP places emphasis on expanding rural internet access and creating digital skills training hubs, particularly benefiting young women who face additional barriers to digital inclusion.

The party also proposes fostering public-private partnerships with technology companies to deliver training and employment in key digital areas such as artificial intelligence, coding, cybersecurity, and remote services. These initiatives are essential to equip youth for the jobs of the future and to close the digital divide that excludes rural and marginalised communities.

**Oversight and Implementation:** The IFP strongly recommends the establishment of a Youth Development Implementation and Oversight Framework (YDIOF) by Parliament. This framework would serve as a mechanism to:

- Track progress against youth development targets;
- Ensure regular reporting from departments on youth programmes; and
- Embed youth-focused indicators into the oversight work of parliamentary committees.

This would institutionalise accountability and ensure that youth development commitments translate into measurable outcomes.

**Youth Ministry:** To ensure sustained attention to youth issues, the IFP proposes the creation of a dedicated Youth Ministry, led by a young leader. This ministry would coordinate youth policies across departments and champion the inclusion of youth voices at the highest level of government. Establishing such a portfolio signals a long-term political commitment to youth empowerment and national renewal.

#### **10.6. Patriotic Alliance (PA)**

The Patriotic Alliance (PA) envisions a unified, empowered society where every citizen—particularly the youth, is given a fair chance. Reconciliation, in this context, must be realised through dignity, inclusion, and opportunity. South Africa's youth deserve meaningful access to economic participation, skills development, social justice, and governance. The PA's youth agenda proposes bold and actionable reforms to break intergenerational poverty and inequality.

**Industrialisation:** The PA underscores that economic exclusion cannot be addressed without bold reindustrialisation. The party advocates for the creation of industrial hubs in historically marginalised communities, with a strong emphasis on light manufacturing, agri-processing, and digital industries. These hubs should leverage state-owned land and infrastructure to reduce costs and facilitate the development of viable industrial clusters.

Beneficiation of natural resources is central to the PA's strategy. Instead of exporting raw materials, the party calls for domestic processing and value addition, which would drive skills development, job creation, and technology adoption.

To support new entrants into the economy, the PA proposes the establishment of a national Trust, funded through a business tax, that would provide low-interest loans to youth and small business owners. This aims to correct the shortcomings of commercial banks in supporting grassroots entrepreneurs.

**Foreign Direct Investment (FDI):** Foreign investment must align with national developmental goals. The PA promotes a strategic approach to FDI, focusing not just on capital inflow, but on technology transfer, job creation, and skills development. Priority sectors include green energy, infrastructure, value-added exports, and beneficiation. FDI agreements should be conditional on meaningful contributions to South Africa's socio-economic transformation and long-term capacity building.

**People's Empowerment Partner:** To ensure that industrial and economic growth benefits all South Africans, the PA proposes the creation of a “People’s Empowerment Partner”, a sovereign wealth-style fund. This fund would hold equity in key industries and distribute dividends to historically disadvantaged South Africans. The goal is to provide direct economic returns to citizens, deepen equity ownership, and dismantle persistent wealth inequality.

**Immigration and Employment:** The PA holds that citizens must be prioritised in employment and economic opportunities. The party calls for strict enforcement of existing immigration laws, including the removal of illegal foreign nationals from the job market. It rejects the drafting of new laws in favour of full enforcement of current statutes. This, the PA argues, is essential for job preservation, national cohesion, and economic justice.

**Meaningful Youth Engagement:** Youth should not be passive recipients of policy but active architects of national development. The PA proposes a multi-layered engagement strategy, including:

- The introduction of a targeted national service programme for unemployed youth, combining military and civil service. This initiative will instil discipline, build civic duty, and equip youth with technical and soft skills, eventually feeding into employment or enterprise support.
- Investment in digital education platforms, with a focus on townships and rural areas. These platforms should deliver labour-aligned curricula, supported by real-time mentorship and facilitation.
- The establishment of Youth Advisory Councils at municipal, provincial, and national levels, with legal recognition and authority to influence budgeting and programming decisions.
- Youth-led initiatives in sport, arts, and culture, which serve as vehicles for community engagement, identity formation, and crime reduction.
- Institutionalisation of Youth Parliaments to ensure regular, accountable, and televised platforms for policy interrogation and youth participation.

**Inclusive Social Development:** For the PA, inclusive development begins with co-creation. The state must shift from top-down delivery to community-led service models, supported by local facilitators and pilot programmes. The party calls for recognition of traditional leaders as agents of development, with structured roles in land use planning, social cohesion, and local economic strategy.

Furthermore, the PA champions the protection of marginalised groups, including LGBTQ+ persons, women, and children. It calls for robust enforcement of gender-based violence (GBV) laws, enhanced psychosocial support in schools, and greater visibility for GBV interventions at community level.

A national mental health strategy is also proposed, which would expand access to trauma counselling, addiction recovery, and community wellness programmes. For the PA, a healed and cohesive society is the foundation for all sustainable economic or political progress.

### **10.7. Freedom Front Plus (FF PLUS)**

The Freedom Front Plus (FF Plus) presents a youth development vision grounded in freedom, opportunity, and accountability. The party believes in empowering young South Africans through practical, non-ideological solutions that restore dignity, foster enterprise, and build self-sufficiency. Its proposals are underpinned by principles of academic freedom, meritocracy, and decentralisation, rejecting centralised bureaucracy and race-based engineering in favour of community-based development.

**Inclusive Economic Growth:** The FF Plus promotes free-market principles and entrepreneurship as the core of inclusive growth. It rejects overregulation and redistribution-based inclusion, arguing instead for enabling all youth through fair access to economic opportunity.

Key measures include:

- Tax relief for youth-owned businesses.
- Simplified business registration for SMMEs.
- Creation of decentralised business incubators in rural and township areas.
- Elimination of race-based procurement policies to foster competitive, merit-driven enterprise.

The FF Plus prioritises equal access to opportunity rather than equal outcomes, supporting youth-led innovation through deregulated and entrepreneur-friendly environments.

**Industrialisation and Employment:** The party supports private sector-led reindustrialisation, with a focus on skills development and economic freedom. It critiques state-driven employment programmes as inefficient and advocates for industry-led vocational training, especially in areas facing critical skills shortages such as trades, digital technologies, and renewable energy.

Key recommendations include:

- Replacing underperforming SETAs with private-sector vocational programmes.
- Implementing dual vocational education systems, modelled after Germany.
- Building regional technical colleges focusing on trades, engineering, coding, and green economy sectors.

FF Plus believes that a functional industrial base must empower youth with relevant, industry-aligned skills and that sustainable employment stems from private investment and training partnerships, not bloated state schemes.

**Meaningful Youth Engagement:** The party rejects tokenistic representation and quotas. Instead, it calls for merit-based youth engagement, grounded in democratic participation, civic education, and critical thinking.

Proposed actions include:

- Establishing community-based, non-partisan leadership academies.
- Setting up Youth Parliaments in all provinces with real policy influence.
- Integrating civic education into school curricula.

The FF Plus sees youth not as passive recipients but as active participants in governance and nation-building, and it promotes initiatives that develop ethical, informed, and capable leaders.

**Inclusive Social Development:** FF Plus defines social development as upliftment through dignity, opportunity, and community support, rather than dependency on the state. It favours grassroots empowerment and local service delivery over centralised interventions.

Key steps include:

- Supporting NGOs and faith-based organisations to deliver social support.
- Promoting community-run cooperatives for local job creation and food security.
- Ensuring that family structures, education, and entrepreneurship are core to long-term development.

The party believes that welfare should function as a safety net, not a permanent solution, and that lasting empowerment must come from within communities.

**Healthy Global Trade and Development Relations:** The FF Plus advocates for economic partnerships rooted in mutual respect and the rule of law. It supports regional development through strategic trade, infrastructure investment, and anti-corruption reforms.

Recommendations include:

- Promoting youth-led intra-African trade, especially in agriculture and technology.
- Expanding South Africa's role in AfCFTA trade opportunities for young entrepreneurs.
- Investing in infrastructure that connects rural youth to economic markets.
- Prioritising local value chains and export-readiness for youth-owned enterprises.

**Universal Access to Education:** The FF Plus champions mother-tongue instruction, academic freedom, and technical training. It opposes political interference in education and supports decentralised models that reflect community priorities.

Key proposals:

- Protect and promote home-language education in all official languages.
- Depoliticise the curriculum and promote academic rigour.
- Support community-run schools.
- Expand vocational and technical training, linked directly to industries.

Citing research by UNESCO, the party notes that mother-tongue education significantly improves literacy and comprehension. FF Plus maintains that quality, apolitical education is foundational to economic participation and social mobility.

**Practical Implementation Steps:** The FF Plus outlines a concrete, pragmatic roadmap to youth empowerment:

- Tax relief for youth enterprises.
- Decentralised business support hubs.
- Industry-led vocational training, replacing dysfunctional SETAs.
- Dual vocational education models.
- Regional technical colleges in trades and technology.
- Establishment of youth-focused civic leadership academies.
- Functional Youth Parliaments in every province.
- Civic education integration into national schooling.

The FF Plus envisions a youth development agenda based on freedom, responsibility, and practical opportunity. It asserts that young South Africans must be equipped not with handouts, but with the tools, freedoms, and institutions needed to build their own futures.

“The future is in our hands, let us shape it with integrity.”

## 10.8. Action SA

ActionSA envisions a South Africa where economic growth, social inclusion, and human development are driven by a capable, ethical state and the active participation of its youth. The party acknowledges the structural barriers that perpetuate poverty, unemployment, and inequality, and calls for targeted, transformational reforms rooted in accountability, dignity, and opportunity for all.

**Industrialisation and Employment:** ActionSA highlights industrialisation as an urgent and necessary transition to address the country's intertwined social and economic challenges, particularly youth unemployment. With South Africa's agricultural sector stabilising, the party advocates for a shift toward mechanised manufacturing as the foundation for sustainable job creation and improved living standards.

Key proposals include:

- Government-led industrial policy to reduce red tape and promote mass production.
- Incentives for domestic manufacturing to reduce reliance on raw exports.
- Support for entrepreneurship and skills training in industrial sectors.
- Learning from global models such as China's industrial transformation to guide policy implementation.

The state must play an active role in coordinating this transition, providing a stable policy environment and supporting the private sector to build labour-absorbing industries that offer dignified work and upward mobility for young South Africans.

**Meaningful Youth Engagement:** ActionSA insists that youth engagement must transcend tokenism and become a structured, inclusive, and sustainable part of governance. With young people constituting over 33% of the population, the party affirms their central role in shaping national and global policies.

Core pillars of youth engagement include:

- Equal partnership in policymaking, not just consultation.
- Inclusivity across class, gender, race, and geography.
- Leadership development, civic responsibility, and political literacy.
- Accountability mechanisms to track youth policy impact and provide feedback loops.
- Creation of long-term platforms for youth input, such as advisory councils and digital feedback systems.

This vision of meaningful engagement empowers youth to influence decisions that affect their lives, strengthens democratic accountability, and builds more responsive and effective public policy.

**Inclusive Social Development:** ActionSA's approach to inclusive development centres on empowerment over dependency. The party calls for dismantling structural inequalities that limit access to services, economic participation, and safety, particularly in historically marginalised communities.

Priority actions include:

- Investing in public services, especially healthcare, housing, and safety, in underdeveloped communities.
- Improving service delivery capacity by building a capable, ethical state and devolving powers to local governments.
- Empowering women, youth, and persons with disabilities through targeted development programmes.
- Promoting community-specific solutions to bridge inequality and foster ownership of development outcomes.

This agenda envisions a society where opportunity is not determined by geography or socio-economic background, and every citizen has the tools to succeed.

**African Development:** Aligning with the African Union's Agenda 2063, ActionSA supports a future for Africa rooted in self-reliance, intra-continental trade, and ethical leadership. South Africa, as a regional power, must promote peace, good governance, and infrastructure-led growth across the continent.

Key priorities include:

- Strengthening AfCFTA as a tool for youth-driven trade and industrial growth.
- Promoting fair and regulated trade that benefits citizens, not elites.
- Fighting corruption and illicit financial flows to safeguard African wealth.
- Investing in critical infrastructure and human capital to drive growth from within.

ActionSA calls for a shift from externally dictated development to African-led solutions, with youth and communities at the forefront.

**Universal Access to Education:** Education is positioned by ActionSA as the cornerstone of long-term development. The party advocates for universal, equitable access to quality higher education to break the cycle of poverty and uplift entire communities.

Key interventions include:

- Expanding funding models beyond NSFAS to include blended public-private mechanisms.
- Investing in TVET colleges, digital learning platforms, and skills development for modern, tech-driven economies.
- Improving education infrastructure and outcomes, especially at the basic education level.
- Holding institutions accountable for governance, student support, and performance.

Education must become a public good, with no young South African denied the chance to study because of financial constraints. It must also be future-facing, preparing youth for a rapidly evolving global economy.

**Practical Implementation Steps:** To translate vision into impact, ActionSA recommends:

- Government leadership in driving industrialisation and reducing policy barriers.
- Structured and accountable youth participation in policy design and implementation.
- Community investments in historically disadvantaged areas.
- Intra-African trade promotion aligned with AU objectives.
- Education reform through expanded funding, modernised infrastructure, and governance improvements.

ActionSA's Youth Development Agenda envisions a South Africa where every young person is empowered to contribute to national development, where opportunity is distributed equitably, and where leadership is grounded in accountability, dignity, and public service. By investing in youth, industrialisation, inclusive policy-making, and African cooperation, South Africa can become a beacon of innovation, justice, and hope.

### **10.9. African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP)**

The African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) Youth Foundation presents a values-driven, intergenerational, and actionable agenda grounded in the principles of faith, justice, stewardship, and co-governance. The agenda recognises South Africa's youth as a vital force

in confronting national challenges, from economic exclusion to social fragmentation and emphasises the need for youth to be co-creators of policy, not passive recipients.

**Empowerment: Meaningful Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Collaboration:**

ACDP asserts that governance without youth is unsustainable. The party calls for the institutionalisation of youth participation at all levels of government through:

- Youth advisory councils embedded in municipal, provincial, and national institutions.
- A “Youth Address Week”, allowing youth to submit formal questions in legislatures.
- Use of digital democracy tools, such as SMS surveys, civic apps, and youth-led monitoring committees, to ensure accountability and responsiveness.
- Youth-led performance monitoring of public programmes.

The party also promotes intergenerational co-governance, where the energy and innovation of youth complements the experience of older leaders to co-create solutions with national relevance and local impact.

**Education: Universal Access, Equity, and Skills for the Future:** The ACDP views education as a non-negotiable right and a national investment priority. The agenda promotes:

- Universal access to quality education, including tuition-free models where constitutionally feasible.
- Expansion of education infrastructure, especially in rural areas.
- Digital learning, green-powered infrastructure, and STEM-aligned curricula.
- Local language content, inclusive education for differently abled learners, and a focus on critical thinking and employability.
- Youth-run oversight systems to track textbook delivery and resource allocation.

The ACDP also calls for addressing student debt through public service-linked loan forgiveness, and for tailoring support systems to reduce dropout rates.

**Employment: Inclusive Economic Growth and Labour Market Readiness:** Youth unemployment is a national emergency. The ACDP proposes:

- Inclusive economic models that promote SME development, township enterprise hubs, and public procurement for youth-owned businesses.
- Transition support from the informal to the formal economy.
- Intergenerational business ownership models to pass down skills and capital.

- Labour protection and skills development linked to industrial and infrastructure programmes.

The agenda positions employment as both an economic necessity and a human dignity imperative.

**Entrepreneurship: Youth Innovation, Cooperatives, and Enterprise Development:** The ACDP believes in unlocking the entrepreneurial potential of young people by:

- Prioritising youth cooperatives and youth-led agri-parks in public sector infrastructure.
- Supporting innovation hubs, digital start-ups, and small businesses with capital, mentorship, and regulatory ease.
- Establishing sector-specific employment compacts between youth, government, and private industry to guarantee market access and supply chain inclusion.

**Emotional and Physical Wellbeing: Health as a Cornerstone of Youth Development:** The ACDP identifies health, particularly mental and reproductive health, as a system-wide enabler. Its key proposals include:

- A National Youth Wellness Strategy integrating health services into schools, TVETs, and communities.
- Investment in mental health support, addiction recovery programmes, and trauma counselling.
- Expansion of mobile clinics and youth-friendly services, especially for menstrual health.
- Ensuring dignified health access as part of education and development policy.

Without a healthy youth population, none of the development goals are achievable.

**Inclusive Social Development: Justice, Belonging, and Protection of Vulnerable Groups:** Social cohesion requires policies that address exclusion, GBV, xenophobia, racism, and disability. The ACDP supports:

- Constitutional protection of diversity, including gender, faith, ability, and identity.
- Youth-responsive services that ensure inclusion at every developmental level.
- Integration of youth into local development planning to reflect community-specific needs.

**Industrialisation and Employment: Building Economies That Work for People:**

Industrialisation must be youth-inclusive, ethical, and future-proof. The ACDP recommends:

- Sector-based skills training, decentralised and linked to guaranteed employment pathways.
- Public-private-youth partnerships to develop export-oriented production, especially in manufacturing and agro-processing.
- Responsible automation policies that don't displace young workers but reskill them for evolving markets.

The party also calls for youth-led procurement in infrastructure and trade projects, especially in Special Economic Zones.

**African Development: Aligning with Agenda 2063:** The ACDP supports regional integration aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063, proposing:

- Youth-driven participation in intra-African trade, especially under AfCFTA.
- Local beneficiation policies in mining and agriculture.
- Youth-led logistics reforms and infrastructure innovation.
- Migration frameworks that welcome skilled contributors while enforcing sovereignty and legal entry.

**Fiscal Responsibility and Intergenerational Debt:** The ACDP raises deep concerns about the growing national debt, which it sees as a moral and economic burden on the youth. It calls for:

- A Youth Fiscal Accountability Forum to assess long-term budget impacts.
- Debt reduction through procurement reform, fiscal discipline, and zero tolerance for corruption.
- Macroeconomic reforms to grow GDP via green infrastructure and youth-driven SMMEs.

**Crime and Safety: Youth-Led Community Resilience:** The party warns that crime and violence undermine every youth development goal. Recommendations include:

- Creation of Municipal and National Youth Safety Councils.
- Strengthening the justice system through anti-corruption measures, expanded GBV courts, and public trust restoration.
- Expansion of youth-led partnerships with law enforcement and trauma support services.

The ACDP calls for a national co-governance compact that unites the vision of older leaders with the energy of youth. Through the 5 E's Framework, Empowerment, Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Emotional & Physical Wellbeing, the party lays out a faith-anchored, pragmatic, and intergenerational roadmap for transforming South Africa.

“Include us, because you are borrowing from us.”

#### **10.10. United Democratic Movement (UDM)**

The UDM Youth emphasizes the importance of intergenerational collaboration, servant leadership, and fiscal responsibility to address the challenges faced by South Africa's youth.

#### **Key priorities or recommendations as outlined in the statement were as follows:**

- Addressing Youth unemployment.
- Addressing Gender based violence.
- Addressing the issue of non-existent or poor consultation of youth in decision making.
- Enhancing access to funding for aspiring entrepreneurs.
- Enhance the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NAFSAS) payment to access education.
- Development of a viable new social contract to enhance youth participation and address drug abuse.

#### **10.11. RISE Mzansi**

RISE Mzansi's Youth Development Agenda proposes a bold, integrated approach to addressing the social, economic, and safety challenges confronting young South Africans. Grounded in principles of inclusion, empowerment, and structural reform, the agenda centres on transforming youth from passive recipients of development into active co-creators of South Africa's democratic and developmental future.

**Youth Representation in Governance and Leadership:** RISE Mzansi affirms that youth should not be relegated to marginal forums but must be integrated into the core of decision-making structures at all levels of government.

Key proposals include:

- Ensuring youth representation across all institutions of governance, not just youth-focused platforms.
- Equipping young people with the expertise and tools to meaningfully engage in public policy formulation.
- Establishing youth leadership programmes as public-private partnerships, including:
  - Stipends for identified youth leaders.
  - Access to mentorship and corporate networks through CSI funding.

The agenda recognises that youth inclusion must be institutionalised and underpinned by intergenerational equity and accountability.

**Education and Training: Reform and Alignment:** South Africa's education and training system is misaligned with the demands of the labour market. RISE Mzansi calls for urgent, comprehensive reform to build a future-ready workforce.

Recommendations include:

- Establishing an expert commission to determine:
  - The country's job deficit.
  - Required education/training pathways.
  - Budgetary needs to upskill the youth.
- Increased funding for TVET colleges, Community Education and Training (CET) centres, and other tertiary facilities.
- Prioritising STEM education while also supporting skilled trades (e.g., plumbing, construction, entrepreneurship).
- Combatting stigma around non-degree qualifications.
- Expanding access to post-school education, including:
  - Reducing cost and accommodation barriers.
  - Increasing awareness of alternative training options.
  - Aligning regional training to local economic sectors (e.g., agriculture, tourism, construction, healthcare).
- Introducing a 3-month conditional jobseekers' grant linked to participation in a skills development programme.

The focus is to equip every young person to earn a dignified living and contribute meaningfully to national development.

**Economic Access and Employment:** RISE Mzansi recognises the need for inclusive and sustainable economic growth, with an emphasis on correcting the legacy of racial, gender-based, and ability-related exclusion.

Key initiatives:

- Supporting black people, women, and persons with disabilities to create wealth through:
  - Skills development.
  - Access to capital.
  - Supportive enterprise development.
- Addressing the specific barriers faced by young single mothers and youth with disabilities, including:
  - Creating childcare facilities in communities.
  - Ensuring workplace accessibility and non-discrimination.
- Advocating for the reindustrialisation of South Africa, focused on:
  - Green industries.
  - Tourism and the creative economy.
  - Cannabis and hemp development.
  - Advanced manufacturing.

The approach combines structural transformation with entrepreneurship, innovation, and sectoral investment to stimulate youth-led economic activity.

**Youth Safety and Well-being:** Recognising the intersecting crises of gender-based violence (GBV), mental health, and community trauma, RISE Mzansi places youth well-being at the centre of development.

Strategic responses include:

- Implementing education and behavioural change campaigns to confront:
  - Male-on-male violence.
  - GBV and harmful masculinity norms.
- Enhancing support systems for GBV survivors, especially in schools, TVETs, and tertiary institutions.
- Strengthening the criminal justice system to improve response and accountability.
- Expanding mental health services in local clinics and addressing barriers to care, particularly for young people.
- Promoting community sport, arts, and culture programmes to:
  - Foster peer mentorship.
  - Encourage discipline and competitiveness.

- Serve as safe, creative outlets and pathways to opportunity.

These initiatives affirm the importance of psychosocial support and community identity in enabling youth resilience and success.

RISE Mzansi's agenda is built on the principle that youth must be respected, included, and enabled. It calls for a comprehensive, interlinked strategy addressing governance inclusion, education reform, economic equity, and personal well-being.

“The youth are not only the future. They are the present, and must be heard, trusted, and empowered to build a better South Africa, starting today.”

### **10.12. Building One South Africa (BOSA)**

Build One South Africa (BOSA), through its Young Builders Movement, presents a bold, youth-led proposal to tackle the country's most urgent crisis: youth unemployment and economic exclusion. With over 4.7 million young people Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET), BOSA calls for a generational shift, moving youth from the margins to the centre of South Africa's economic recovery.

**Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for Youth Jobs:** BOSA proposes restructuring existing SEZs to become launchpads for youth employment:

- 25% of all employment opportunities in SEZs to be reserved for youth.
- Youth Enterprise Desks established within each SEZ to provide support, placement pipelines, and learnership coordination.
- Township youth to be directly connected to industrial opportunities through structured recruitment and skills alignment.

This approach redefines SEZs as inclusive platforms that serve not only established businesses but also young South Africans entering the workforce.

**Township Opportunity Zones (TOZs):** To reverse spatial and economic exclusion, BOSA advocates for Township Opportunity Zones (TOZs), a locally embedded economic development model:

- Selected townships converted into economic engines through:
  - Tax incentives
  - Fast-track permits

- Co-working and business hubs
- 5% of public procurement to be ring-fenced for youth-owned township businesses.
- Basic economic infrastructure (e.g., broadband, transport, light industrial space) to be prioritised.

These zones will empower youth where they live, turning townships into opportunity centres rather than areas of despair.

**3. Funding Youth-Owned Businesses:** To overcome barriers to entrepreneurship, BOSA calls for the creation of new financial instruments:

- National Graduate Venture Fund targeting TVET and university graduates starting new ventures.
- Expansion of venture capital access via public-private partnerships, prioritising youth in sectors such as manufacturing, tech, and the green economy.
- Reforms to banking regulation and red tape that currently exclude youth-led SMMEs from financial support.

This plan seeks to shift capital towards innovation and inclusion, not bureaucracy and elitism.

**Jobs and Justice Fund:** BOSA proposes establishing a transparent, corruption-free public fund to drive real outcomes:

- A Jobs and Justice Fund, administered by public finance professionals, not politicians.
- Channels BBBEE and CSI funding into high-impact youth-led initiatives.
- Supports programmes that bridge the gap between talent and tools, delivering scalable, monitored projects.

The Fund will ensure resources reach the grassroots, not elite gatekeepers.

**Voluntary National Civilian Service:** To offer youth structured experience and community contribution, BOSA recommends:

- A one-year voluntary service for post-matriculants in sectors such as:
  - Health
  - Education
  - SAPS
  - Social services
- Participants receive a stipend, mentorship, and on-the-job training.

- Focus on building skills and civic values while contributing to under-served communities.

**End Tenderpreneurship and Restore Fairness:** To break the culture of patronage, BOSA urges systemic reforms to public procurement:

- Ban cadre deployment in SMME and public procurement processes.
- Launch a transparent, digital procurement platform, accessible to all youth entrepreneurs.
- Establish a merit-based system, ensuring fairness replaces favouritism.

**Expected Outcomes by 2028:** If implemented, BOSA projects the following outcomes:

- 500,000 youth employed through SEZ and TOZ initiatives.
- 100,000 new youth-owned businesses operational.
- 50,000 graduates funded to start ventures.
- 100,000 post-matriculants gain work experience through national service.
- A 10–15% reduction in the NEET rate.
- A transformed, transparent public procurement culture that prioritises inclusion, fairness, and delivery.

**Call to Action:** BOSA calls on the P20 Youth Parliament to:

- Table and prioritise this proposal as a national youth resolution.
- Direct relevant departments to provide regulatory, funding, and operational support.
- Engage civil society and youth movements to ensure broad-based rollout.
- Partner with provincial and local government to pilot TOZs by 2026.

This is a call not for charity, but for investment in South Africa's greatest asset: its youth.

In conclusion, BOSA stated: "This submission is not just a policy. It is a declaration that youth are not a problem to be managed, but the solution we've been waiting for."

BOSA's youth agenda is bold, measurable, and implementable. It shifts the conversation from crisis to action, and from exclusion to shared prosperity.

### **10.13. African Transformation Movement (ATM)**

The African Transformation Movement Youth League (ATMYL) emphasises the urgency of fixing South Africa's domestic challenges before fully engaging in global development

conversations. With a youth unemployment rate of over 62% among 15–24-year-olds, ATMYL warns that exclusion from the economy leads to spiralling crises including crime, substance abuse, depression, and hopelessness. The submission calls for youth-led, time-bound change underpinned by self-determination, African unity, and dignity.

**Industrialisation and Employment:** ATMYL calls for an economy that is inclusive, productive, and rooted in local beneficiation and ownership, especially in rural areas. Key proposals include:

- Resuscitating agricultural colleges and integrating agriculture and entrepreneurship into basic education.
- Promoting a modernised, youth-led agricultural economy, positioning farming as a viable and attractive career.
- Embedding a national culture of “We consume what we produce.”
- Prioritising SMMEs, noting their contribution of approximately 50% to South Africa’s GDP.
- Driving industrialisation through local manufacturing and beneficiation of raw materials.
- Advocating for the return of land to its original custodians.
- Investing in rural enterprises, agri-parks, and infrastructure to support small-scale farmers.

**Meaningful Youth Engagement:** ATMYL calls for youth to be engaged not only as beneficiaries but as co-leaders in shaping national policy. Recommendations include:

- Greater investment in youth-centric programmes like Love Life.
- Reduction of data costs to ensure equitable access to the digital economy.
- Establishing leadership academies to support aspiring leaders with resources, tools, and career pathways.
- Investing in the creative arts industry, especially in under-served communities.
- Creating forums, conferences, and digital platforms for young people to directly engage with policymakers.

**Inclusive Social Development:** ATMYL frames development through an Afrocentric lens, advocating for the full recognition and restoration of traditional institutions. Key proposals:

- Restoration of traditional kingdoms dismantled by colonialism; traditional leaders should be structurally senior in governance (e.g., Kings above Presidents, Chiefs above Councillors).

- Protecting the rights and interests of vulnerable groups - youth, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.
- Recognition and support for African Independent Churches, acknowledging their nation-building role.

**African Development:** ATMYL believes South Africa's development must be aligned with the renaissance of the African continent, calling for:

- Ensuring Africa benefits from its mineral wealth by promoting local beneficiation and halting the export of raw resources.
- Constitutional recognition of African Traditional Law as a legitimate and equal legal system.
- Strengthening the African Union (AU) and regional bodies to deliver "African solutions to African problems."
- Eliminating terrorist and rebel groups that destabilise African nations.

This vision affirms Pan-African unity, resource sovereignty, and cultural reclamation as central pillars of youth empowerment.

**Universal Access to Education:** ATMYL considers education a non-negotiable right and a tool for liberation. It proposes:

- Free, quality education at all levels.
- A skills-based education system linked to national economic needs and South Africa's mineral wealth.
- Systems to support learners at risk of dropping out or repeating grades.
- Investment in school infrastructure, especially water and sanitation in underserved areas.

The objective is to equip youth with practical, locally relevant skills to enable self-employment and societal participation.

ATMYL closes its submission with a challenge: "Nothing about us without us." It calls on the Youth Parliament to:

- Move beyond symbolic dialogue.
- Establish clear implementation timeframes and accountability mechanisms.
- Ensure that youth submissions result in tangible, monitored outcomes.

The submission ends with a Pan-African call to unity and dignity, quoting Robert Sobukwe and denouncing continued reliance on Western ideology, affirming:

“We are not anti-anyone. We are pro-Africa.”

#### 10.14. Al-Jama-ah (ALJAMA AH)

Al Jama-ah acknowledges the deep structural and historical injustices inherited from apartheid. Townships were designed to restrict and exclude, not to thrive. The submission outlines:

- Generational poverty, youth unemployment, and lack of access to land and capital as consequences of engineered exclusion.
- Township youth are trapped in cycles of trauma, addiction, and gangsterism, with limited access to education and mentorship.
- Drug dens outnumber schools in areas like the Western Cape, and gender-based violence and unsafe communities erode any foundation for development.

**Call for Economic Justice:** Al Jama-ah grounds its call in Islamic principles, stating that economic justice is not optional but a moral obligation. Citing Qur’an 2:188, the submission insists on dismantling unjust economic systems and building inclusive alternatives. Proposals include:

- Establishing community-based skills centres in every township to combine education, rehabilitation, and mentorship.
- Investment in youth cooperatives and provision of interest-free loans (*qard al-hasan*) to support ethical youth-led businesses.
- Increased support for shelters and counselling services, especially for abused women and children, who are the most vulnerable in these environments.

These interventions are meant to address both the material and emotional conditions confronting the youth.

**Empowering Women:** The submission draws on the example of Sayyidah Khadijah (RA) to affirm that Muslim women have a proud legacy of leadership. It confronts double discrimination faced by Muslim women, both as women and as youth, and calls for:

- Empowering young women to take leadership roles in economic, social, and community development.

- A cultural shift that honours dignity, innovation, and strength among women across all sectors.

**Proposals and Way Forward:** Al Jama-ah calls for action over rhetoric, demanding meaningful structural change driven by and for the youth. Key proposals include:

- The establishment of a National Youth Economic Assembly that includes diverse youth voices from townships, rural areas, and faith-based communities.
- Real policy influence, rejecting symbolic representation or “talk shops.”
- Comprehensive programmes to fight drugs, GBV, and gangsterism by offering alternatives rooted in hope, not fear.
- Recognising that the youth struggle is both political and spiritual, and must be approached with a sense of moral responsibility and justice.

Al Jama-ah’s submission is a call to justice, dignity, and collective empowerment. It demands a shift from tokenistic youth inclusion to meaningful transformation, led by young people with clear purpose and vision. The party urges Parliament to support youth-led, ethical, and faith-conscious development models that restore agency to the oppressed and provide real alternatives to systemic marginalisation.

#### **10.15. National Coloured Congress (NCC)**

The emphasis was promoting social justice, empower communities, and contribute to economic development for future generations. Key issues raised were the youth unemployment, as well as the need to develop a comprehensive basic education system. It was proposed that the youth be encouraged to participate in politics and in Parliament.

#### **10.16. Pan African Congress (PAC)**

### **Proposed Agenda 1**

The Youth Parliament should prioritize the following key components to effectively address the needs and concerns of young people:

**National Youth Act:** The PAC proposes the urgent enactment of a National Youth Act to establish a comprehensive legislative framework for youth development. This Act would:

- Define the rights and responsibilities of young people.

- Mandate government obligations to support youth empowerment.
- Institutionalise systematic, inclusive participation of youth in policymaking.

The PAC asserts that youth must be empowered as full stakeholders in shaping the country's developmental path and constitutional order.

**3-Stream Education System:** To accommodate the diverse talents and learning pathways of youth, the PAC calls for a 3-stream education system, comprising:

- Formal Education: Traditional classroom-based schooling.
- Informal Education: Community-based, experiential, and self-directed learning.
- Non-Formal Education: Skills-oriented programmes outside conventional institutions (e.g., workshops, online courses).

**Decolonisation of Education and Institutions:** Decolonisation is framed as both a pedagogical and structural imperative, involving:

- Recognising African histories, philosophies, and cultures.
- Reconfiguring institutional power structures and curricula.
- Embedding indigenous knowledge and African perspectives in all education levels.

The PAC envisions a society that heals from its colonial past by valuing diversity and redressing historical injustices, thus promoting social cohesion, empathy, and inclusivity.

**Sports, Arts, and Culture:** Acknowledging their transformative power, the PAC emphasises the role of sports, arts, and culture in youth development by:

- Building community cohesion and promoting inclusion.
- Celebrating diversity through creative and cultural expression.
- Providing avenues for talent development, identity formation, and self-expression.

These sectors are not auxiliary but integral to national healing and should be institutionally supported and integrated into youth policy frameworks.

**Inter-Governmental Relations and Integrated Youth Development:** PAC advocates for robust inter-governmental coordination to ensure that youth development initiatives are:

- Integrated across national, provincial, and local levels.
- Effective and measurable, with tangible impact.
- Responsive to evolving youth challenges, especially across rural and urban divides.

## Proposed Agenda 2

**Land Restitution and Restoration:** Land is central to the PAC's ideological and practical vision for justice. The submission outlines a comprehensive plan for land restitution and restoration grounded in:

### Key Principles:

- Restorative Justice: A focus on healing the wounds of dispossession.
- Community-Led Processes: Ensuring affected communities lead restitution efforts.
- Inclusivity and Equity: Addressing the needs of all historically excluded groups.
- Community Empowerment: Ensuring informed, democratic participation in land decisions.

### Importance for Youth:

- Intergenerational Justice: Ensuring the sacrifices of ancestors are honoured through restitution.
- Economic Opportunity: Providing youth access to land for agriculture, entrepreneurship, and job creation.
- Cultural Preservation: Connecting youth to their heritage and enabling cultural continuity.
- Empowerment: Involving youth directly in decision-making on land and development issues.

### Long-Term Benefits

- Promotion of social justice and economic transformation.
- Empowered communities with control over their resources and future.
- Boosted agricultural production, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

The PAC views land not only as an economic asset but as a foundation for identity, dignity, and nation-building.

The PAC's youth development agenda is rooted in justice, self-determination, and systemic reform. Through legislative, educational, cultural, and land-based transformation, it seeks to reclaim space and power for South Africa's youth, especially the historically dispossessed. The PAC calls on Parliament to take bold, reparative steps that enable young people to thrive with dignity, freedom, and purpose.

### 10.17. United Africans Transformation (UAT)

The UAT emphasizes land expropriation and restitution to enhance land access and optimal use of resources.

#### Key priorities or recommendations as outlined in the statement were as follows:

- Ensuring youth development
- Land expropriation and access
- Support with resources for development.
- Proposals: Enhance access to comprehensive education and skills development systems to ensure that education and skills development respond to economic needs.

### 10.18. Good Party (GOOD)

The GOOD Party's youth agenda presents a bold and urgent call for South Africa to invest in its youth by tackling the intertwined crises of economic stagnation, inadequate infrastructure, and failing education systems. Framed as a five-year plan, the agenda targets structural transformation through focused investment in education, industrialisation, and healthcare, with a strong emphasis on implementation, accountability, and access.

**Education Reform and Digital Access:** GOOD asserts that quality education is foundational to national development and youth empowerment. The party strongly condemns the ongoing infrastructural deficits in schools, such as a lack of toilets, overcrowded classrooms, and teaching under trees, as unacceptable in 2025. It calls for:

- **Structural Upgrades:** A national oversight tour of educational facilities, starting with the most problematic, to ensure upgrades in classrooms, sanitation, and capacity.
- **Expansion of Technikons:** Recognising the economic value of practical, career-focused training, GOOD proposes the upscaling of Technikons to meet the demands of a growing economy and an urbanising population.
- **Youth Support Structures:** Creation of community-based Wi-Fi hubs to serve as study centres and job application zones in areas with poor internet connectivity.
- **Open Access Digital Education:** Development of a national online educational library offering free videos, documents, past papers, and vocational training resources.

- **Affordable Internet Access:** A revision of the National Data Policy to eliminate exploitative mobile data pricing practices that exclude youth from online learning.

**Industrialisation and Infrastructure:** GOOD positions industrialisation, particularly in the transport sector, as the engine for economic recovery, job creation, and trade expansion:

- **Rail Revitalisation:** A five-year plan to restructure PRASA into two specialised teams, Resource Rail and Commercial Rail, with site development and track construction focused on priority regions and metros.
- **Port Expansion:** Investment in port infrastructure to reduce backlogs, improve efficiency, and capitalise on South Africa's strategic trade position amidst shifting global shipping routes.
- These initiatives aim to stimulate foreign investment, enhance job opportunities, and reduce logistics costs.

**Healthcare Infrastructure Investment:** Acknowledging the limitations of the current healthcare system in supporting the proposed National Health Insurance (NHI), GOOD's agenda includes:

- **Immediate Revitalisation:** Identification and upgrading of underfunded hospitals and unequipped clinics, particularly in marginalised communities.
- **Healthcare Expansion:** Construction of new facilities and recruitment of young, unemployed qualified healthcare professionals.
- **Prioritised Coverage:** Focus on ensuring access to healthcare in areas that have lost support due to withdrawal of international donor funding.

GOOD contends that the current generation of South African youth must not become a "lost generation" due to government inaction. The party's proposed agenda is rooted in swift, well-monitored implementation, backed by reliable data. It rejects cosmetic promises and demands concrete delivery that will inspire public trust. Over the next five years, GOOD envisions a transition from a national culture of despair to one of hope, growth, and opportunity, driven by bold investments in education, industrialisation, and healthcare.

## 11. CLOSING

### 11.1. Remarks by the Minister in the Presidency: Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

The Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities emphasized the importance of transparency and collaboration in the youth development agenda. Key points included:

- A request for the recordings of the session to be made available to all Members of Parliament.
- A recommendation that MPs review the recordings collectively before endorsing the final report.
- Clarification on the status of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA):
  - The notion that the NYDA is led by a non-existent board was addressed.
  - The interim board has been appointed and is valid until the new board is constituted.
  - The President has designated the Chairperson of the interim board, affirming its legitimacy.

The Minister concluded with an uplifting message to the Youth present both physically and virtually: **“I feel energized today. You are everything that the country needs.”**

### 11.2. Remarks by the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP

The Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Govender, expressed gratitude to Hon. Frolick and acknowledged the vibrant energy of the youth present. Highlights of his remarks included:

- Recognition of the boldness and unity demonstrated by the youth in addressing issues such as unemployment and exclusion.
- Commendation for the multi-faceted approach taken by youth formations.
- Acknowledgement of the historic nature of the session, where youth formations were invited to submit detailed proposals. This was an invention of the 7<sup>th</sup> Parliament.
- Emphasis on the importance of youth participation in planning and budgeting processes.
- A warning that apathy could undermine the youth development agenda.

The Deputy Chairperson concluded by thanking all attendees and reaffirming Parliament's commitment to youth transformation.

### **11.3. Remarks by the House Chairperson: Hon. Frolick**

The House Chairperson for Committee Oversight and Public Participation in the National Assembly (NA), Mr CT Frolick, opened with a light-hearted observation: "Participants here today have proven that indeed Friday can be a working day in Parliament."

#### **Key contributions included:**

- Gratitude to the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the NCOP (in absentia).
- Appreciation for Minister Chikunga and the commitment to collaborate with sectoral Parliaments.
- Acknowledgement of the NA and NCOP staff for their support since the development of the Concept document.
- Announcement that the Parliamentary Communication Services (PCS) will compile a comprehensive record of the session.
- Noted that the session is a precursor to the P20 Seminar in the Western Cape, which offers youth a chance to engage with international peers.
- Recognition of the presenters, session chairs, and political party representatives for their insightful contributions.
- Proposal to establish a Youth Caucus in Parliament.
- Encouragement to promote the use of indigenous languages to enhance inclusivity and understanding.

### **11.4. Way forward**

To ensure that the outcomes of the P20 Youth Parliament translate into tangible progress, a series of follow-up actions will be undertaken. These steps are intended to strengthen accountability, sustain momentum, and embed the youth voices in the ongoing national policy and governance processes:

- A detailed report of the deliberations will be tabled in both Houses of Parliament.
- Members of the Executive will be invited to present concrete plans to address the issues raised.

- Youth formations are encouraged to remain organized and proactive in engaging with national processes.

## 12. SUMMARY OF KEY CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 12.1. Key challenges raised during the sessions

The 2025 P20 Youth Parliament served as a critical platform for young people across South Africa to reflect on the state of youth development, equitable access to opportunities, and meaningful participation in governance. Throughout the deliberations, several systemic and structural issues consistently emerged, shaping the discussions and informing the outcomes. The 2025 Youth Parliament brought these challenges to the fore, including:

#### **Persistent Youth Unemployment and Economic Exclusion**

A major concern raised was the persistently high rate of youth unemployment, exacerbated by a mismatch between education outcomes and labour market needs. Many young people, particularly in rural and township areas, are unable to access work opportunities despite possessing formal qualifications. The underperformance of Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) in providing workplace experience and placements was noted as a significant barrier to youth economic participation.

#### **Barriers to Skills Development and Education Access**

Delegates highlighted the lack of equitable access to technical and vocational training, digital infrastructure, and financial aid as key obstacles in realising the potential of young South Africans. Limited access to data, learning devices, and internet connectivity continues to marginalise learners, especially in underserved communities. Furthermore, learners with disabilities face compounded exclusion due to inaccessible infrastructure and limited psychosocial support in schools, higher education and workplaces at large.

#### **Rural Youth Marginalisation**

Youth in rural areas face challenges in accessing land, agricultural support, and development opportunities. The absence of youth-friendly extension services and barriers to participating in food security and agro-processing initiatives contribute to their continued economic exclusion. Calls were made for a holistic rural development strategy that recognises the unique barriers faced by rural youth.

#### **Gender-Based Violence and Vulnerability of Marginalised Youth**

The rising incidence of gender-based violence, including violence directed at young women and LGBTQIA+ youth, was raised as a national emergency. Delegates emphasised that

government services remain inaccessible to many survivors and that young people continue to feel unprotected despite the existence of legal and policy frameworks. Youth living with disabilities were also reported to face institutional exclusion, especially in education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

### **Insufficient Inclusion in Decision-Making**

Young people expressed concern over their limited representation in policy design, governance processes, and oversight structures. Youth formations called for a more meaningful and institutionalised role in shaping national policy and for the Youth Parliament not to be a symbolic event but a continuous process of engagement and accountability.

### **Poor Interdepartmental Coordination and Accountability**

A shared concern was that youth development efforts across departments lack coherence, with inadequate monitoring and weak accountability mechanisms. Despite significant budget allocations for youth-targeted programmes, results remain uneven, and the impact on youth livelihoods and employment outcomes remains limited.

### **Systemic Barriers Undermining Youth Participation in Industrialisation and Economic Inclusion**

Young entrepreneurs face a complex web of interrelated structural, administrative, and financial barriers that hinder their full participation in South Africa's industrial and economic landscape. These barriers are particularly pronounced in township and rural communities, where support is minimal, fragmented, or inaccessible. These include structural and regulatory hurdles, inadequate access to funding and delayed disbursement, neglect of township revitalisation and lack of disaggregated and impact-driven data.

## **12.2. Key recommendations made during sessions**

The following recommendations are derived from the discussions, presentations, and deliberations that took place during the 2025 Youth Parliament. They reflect the key concerns raised by young people and stakeholders across a range of thematic areas, including education, economic participation, rural development, gender-based violence, social inclusion, and governance. These recommendations aim to guide Parliament's oversight, legislative, and advocacy functions in addressing the challenges facing South Africa's youth. They also serve as a call to action for government departments and institutions to prioritise meaningful and measurable responses that empower young people and safeguard their rights.

**General**

- Parliament should institutionalise meaningful youth engagement by mandating all national departments to include youth in policy development, implementation, and monitoring.
- To ensure accountability, regular reporting on progress toward youth development goals (Agenda 2063, SDGs) must be tabled in Parliament.
- Strengthen oversight over youth development institutions, such as the NYDA and PanSALB, to ensure they meet their mandates.
- Expand civic education programmes to empower youth in democratic participation.

**Youth Unemployment and Economic Participation**

- Strengthen oversight of SETAs and TVET colleges to ensure alignment with labour market needs and enforce graduate placement targets.
- Monitor the performance of SEDA, SEFA, and IDC in supporting youth entrepreneurship.
- Call for an evaluation of existing youth employment tax incentives to assess their impact and recommend reforms.
- Ensure economic policies align with the National Youth Policy and support inclusive youth employment across sectors.
- Oversee the implementation of the YES and Presidential Employment Stimulus to ensure accessibility for rural and marginalised youth.
- Promote budget allocations that support digital inclusion, youth entrepreneurship, and skills development.
- Track disaggregated youth employment statistics by sector and age group to better inform policy responses.
- Hold the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities accountable for interdepartmental coordination and progress reporting on youth economic participation.
- Establish Youth Desks in all government departments, including municipalities.
- Review the funding formulas for provinces and municipalities to ensure responsiveness to youth unemployment through additional allocation.
- Call for developing of employment quotas for the appointment of South Africans and foreigners.

- Simplify and harmonise business registration, SARS compliance, and labour regulation processes to reduce red tape and enable easier entry for youth entrepreneurs, particularly in townships.
- Improve the efficiency, transparency, and turnaround times of funding support mechanisms for youth-owned businesses, with a focus on township and rural inclusion.
- Develop dedicated, youth-oriented support infrastructure in townships, including enterprise hubs and industrial zones tailored to local economic conditions and youth needs.
- Simplify B-BBEE compliance processes and ensure practical, accessible support for youth enterprises to benefit meaningfully from economic transformation frameworks.
- Require all relevant departments and agencies to collect and publish disaggregated data on youth entrepreneurship and employment by age, geography, and other demographics to inform policy, track impact, and ensure accountability.

#### **Youth – Rural Development and Agriculture**

- Monitor and report on the accessibility and effectiveness of land allocation schemes for young farmers.
- Advocate for budget allocations towards agribusiness incubators and rural training hubs targeted at youth.
- Ensure revitalisation and funding of agricultural colleges to provide youth with practical rural development skills.

#### **Youth and GBVF**

- Require quarterly departmental reports on the implementation of GBVF frameworks, focusing on prevention, access to justice, and support services.
- Activate oversight mechanisms (e.g. inquiries) when implementation failures or non-compliance with GBVF protocols are identified.
- Ensure that GBVF prevention is mainstreamed in school curricula and youth development programmes.

#### **LGBTQIA+**

- Review the enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation to ensure the protection of LGBTQIA+ youth in schools, health, and workplace settings.
- Mental health service inclusivity indicators should be included in oversight frameworks.
- Require explicit LGBTQIA+ representation in youth consultation, policy frameworks, and governance platforms.

**Youth with Disabilities**

- Enforce the 5% disability employment equity target across all public departments and state entities with regular compliance tracking.
- Monitor infrastructure upgrades in schools (especially in under-resourced areas like the Eastern Cape, North-West, Northern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga) through grant reporting systems.
- Ensure annual review of NSFAS allocations for students with disabilities, confirming ring-fenced funds are utilised appropriately.
- Expand the appointment of educational psychologists to support learners with barriers.

**Youth and Social Inclusion**

- Conduct digital infrastructure audits to evaluate equitable access to education and services in rural and township areas.
- Include youth-specific safety and service access indicators in oversight of informal settlement upgrades.
- Require the Department of Social Development to report on how youth marginalisation is addressed in social support programmes, with disaggregated impact indicators.

**Youth Parliament and the Executive**

- Institutionalise Youth Parliament as an annual programme with formal links to the National Assembly and NCOP structures.
- Refer resolutions of the Youth Parliament to relevant oversight committees for implementation, monitoring and reporting.
- Establish a Youth Compact, coordinated through the Presidency, consolidating government commitments to youth empowerment.
- Request the Executive to table annual progress reports on implementation of Youth Parliament resolutions to promote intergenerational accountability.
- Convene an annual Young People with Disabilities Parliament.

## 13. PARLIAMENTARY RESOLUTIONS

The following Parliamentary Resolutions are proposed to ensure that the outcomes of the Youth Parliament are formally integrated into the work of Parliament. These resolutions are framed to guide oversight, legislative, and budgetary processes and to promote more inclusive, responsive, and accountable youth development across all spheres of government. Each resolution is aligned with the thematic areas raised by participants and aims to translate the youth-led dialogue into actionable commitments by Parliament and the Executive.

### A. General Governance and Legislative Alignment

1. Parliament resolves that all national and provincial departments must institutionalise meaningful professionalised youth engagement by formally integrating youth consultation into the development, implementation, and monitoring of public policy and programmes.
2. Parliament resolves that the Youth Parliament shall be held annually as a formal structure of public participation, with resolutions formally tracked through oversight committees and departmental reporting.
3. Provincial Youth Parliaments should serve as the foundation for the National Youth Parliament, ensuring that localised priorities, challenges, and recommendations are consolidated and meaningfully reflected in the national programme and outcomes.
4. Parliament calls on the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with the Departments of Basic Education, Justice and Constitutional Development, and other relevant entities, to lead a comprehensive legislative review of all laws, regulations, and policies affecting youth. This review should assess effectiveness, coherence, and alignment with national priorities and international obligations. Particular attention must be given to strengthening the legal framework on statutory rape.
5. Parliament resolves that all government departments, state-owned entities, and relevant private sector partners must align their budget allocations and APPs with measurable youth development and employment targets, reflecting economic mainstreaming principles. Progress must be reported quarterly. The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities should coordinate and track expenditure for impactful youth development programmes.

**B. Youth Employment, Economic Inclusion, and Enterprise Development**

6. Parliament resolves to intensify oversight of youth employment programmes, including the Presidential Employment Stimulus and the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, through quarterly reviews of disaggregated data. A clear legal framework must guide this process.
7. Parliament calls on Statistics South Africa to enhance data collection and analysis on systemic barriers to rural economic development to inform targeted interventions and strengthen oversight.
8. Parliament calls on the Department of Higher Education and Training and the Department of Employment and Labour to strengthen oversight of SETAs, TVET colleges, and artisan training centres to align with labour market needs and enforce graduate placement targets.
9. The Department of Higher Education and Training, in collaboration with relevant departments, must support the development of sport-related career pathways through accredited programmes and practical placements. These initiatives must be costed and funded.
10. Parliament resolves to request a comprehensive evaluation of tax incentives for youth employment and assess their effectiveness in creating sustainable jobs in marginalised communities.
11. Parliament urges National Treasury to ensure fiscal policy is aligned with youth development priorities, including entrepreneurship, digital inclusion, and local economic development.
12. Parliament calls on the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), National Treasury, and SARS to review and simplify compliance frameworks for youth-owned businesses, including registration, tax, and labour regulations.
13. The Department of Small Business Development, in partnership with the NYDA and SEFA, must implement fast-track mechanisms for approved youth enterprise funding, with clear turnaround times and reporting obligations.
14. Municipal Youth Councils, as advisory bodies that provide young people's perspectives to local governments and institutions, must be adequately resourced and funded to enable meaningful participation, effective advocacy, and sustained engagement in local development processes.
15. Provincial and municipal governments must establish youth economic desks to provide access to support services, compliance assistance, and local procurement opportunities.

16. Parliament recommends that the Department of Higher Education and Training, with National Treasury and other stakeholders, develop sustainable mechanisms to address the student debt crisis, especially for financially vulnerable students.
17. Parliament resolves to develop a legal framework to uphold constitutional guarantees and safeguard youth economic opportunities, particularly in sectors impacted by illegal activity or non-compliance with labour and immigration laws.
18. Parliament supports the reindustrialisation of strategic sectors, including local beneficiation of mineral resources, to drive youth employment and inclusive growth.
19. The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation must report on Presidential commitments related to youth inclusion targets. Entry criteria in government programmes should be adjusted to avoid penalising lack of experience. A clear legal and policy framework must guide implementation, including resourcing of Youth Councils.

### **C. Youth, Rural Development and Agriculture**

20. Parliament calls on the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to fully implement NARYSEC and promote youth-inclusive rural development through land access and support for youth-led cooperatives.
21. Parliament resolves that the Department of Agriculture must prioritise the revitalisation and funding of agricultural training institutions to support youth in agro-enterprise.
22. Parliament resolves to prioritise youth access to land to enable their meaningful participation in agriculture and contribute to sustainable livelihoods and food security.

### **D. Youth and Crime Prevention**

23. Parliament resolves that the Departments of Basic Education, Health, Higher Education, Social Development, Justice, and Police must submit quarterly reports on the NSP on GBVF, with disaggregated data on youth survivors and related issues such as teenage pregnancies and statutory rape.
24. Parliament calls for the integration of GBVF awareness and prevention into the school curriculum and youth development programmes as part of the national prevention strategy.
25. Parliament resolves that the Department of Police (South African Police Service), in collaboration with relevant departments and entities, must develop and implement targeted strategies to address crimes that disproportionately affect and exploit young people. These include, but are not limited to, statutory rape, gangsterism, drug trafficking, human trafficking, extortion, and the recruitment of youth into criminal

networks. Efforts must focus on prevention, community-based interventions, improved policing, and the protection of vulnerable youth, particularly in high-risk and under-resourced communities.

### **E. LGBTQIA+ Youth**

26. Parliament resolves to strengthen oversight of the enforcement of anti-discrimination laws in education, healthcare, and the workplace, with a focus on LGBTQIA+ youth.
27. Parliament calls on the Department of Health to include responsiveness indicators for LGBTQIA+ youth in the performance frameworks of mental health service providers.

### **F. Youth with Disabilities**

28. Parliament resolves that all public entities must comply with the minimum 5% disability employment equity target and submit annual compliance reports to the relevant committees.
29. Parliament calls on the Department of Basic Education and National Treasury to report on the use of conditional grants for universal access upgrades in schools, with a focus on under-resourced provinces.
30. Parliament calls on the Department of Higher Education and NSFAS to table annual reports on ring-fenced funding for students with disabilities.
31. Parliament resolves to examine and, where appropriate, undertake an international study tour on global best practices for the inclusion of youth with disabilities, with Singapore and Switzerland preliminary identified as benchmarks. The Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, together with the Youth Caucus, should lead this process.
32. Noting the principled decision by the Speaker of the National Assembly to convene a Parliament of Persons with Disabilities, this commitment must be implemented without delay to promote inclusion, accessibility, and representation within parliamentary processes. This initiative should be supported and championed by the Multi-Party Women's Caucus, with a view to institutionalising it across all provinces and ensuring alignment with broader equity and inclusion efforts.

### **G. Youth and Social Inclusion**

33. Parliament resolves that the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies must conduct a national audit on youth access to digital infrastructure, particularly in rural and informal areas.

34. Parliament calls on the Department of Social Development to incorporate youth-specific indicators into performance assessments of social support programmes, particularly in informal settlements.

#### **H. Youth Parliament and Executive Accountability**

35. Parliament recommends that the Executive, through the Presidency, adopt a coordinated Youth Compact outlining interdepartmental commitments, with annual reporting to Parliament.
36. Parliament calls on the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities to develop and implement a national Youth Inclusion Scorecard to measure participation across public entities.
37. Parliament calls on the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities to table bi-annual reports on youth development progress, aligned with the SDGs, Agenda 2063, and the National Youth Policy.
38. The established National Assembly Tracking Mechanism, supported by the SharePoint platform, should be institutionalised to monitor the implementation of resolutions from Sectoral Parliaments, Parliamentary Committees, the Executive, and the Presidency. Parliamentary Committees must actively track the implementation of these resolutions and commitments, particularly those related to youth development, through regular updates, clearly assigned responsibilities, and measurable accountability mechanisms.
39. Noting the commitment of the National Assembly Speaker to establish a Multi-Party Youth Caucus, the P20 Youth Parliament must serve as a catalyst for its institutionalisation and for advancing a coherent youth agenda across all levels of government.

## 14. REFERENCES

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National Planning Commission (2012). *National Development Plan 2030: Our Future – Make it Work*. Pretoria: The Presidency, Republic of South Africa.

## 15. COLLABORATE TEAM: CONTRIBUTORS TO THE P20 DRAFT REPORT

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Mamphago Modiba	PC: Higher Education
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Sivuyile Maboda	PC: Minerals and Petroleum
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## **16. APPENDIX: WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED**

The following organisations submitted written submissions in response to the call for sector-specific inputs ahead of the 2025 Youth Parliament. These submissions formed an integral part of the deliberative process and are reflected substantively throughout the main body of the report, informing the recommendations and thematic analyses presented.

### **POLITICAL PARTIES**

1. ANC
2. ACDP
3. ActionSA
4. Al Jama
5. ATM
6. DA
7. Economic Freedom Fighters
8. Freedom Front Plus
9. Inkatha Freedom Party
10. GOOD Party
11. Patriotic Alliance
12. RISE Mzansi
13. BOSA - YBM

### **ACADEMIC**

1. University of the Western Cape (UWC)

### **CIVIL SOCIETY**

1. Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)
2. NUM Youth Structure
3. South African Youth Council (SAYC)
4. Disabled Youth South Africa
5. United Africans Transformation (UAT)

### **DIPLOMATIC**

SADC Youth Parliament

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## National Assembly

### 1. INTERIM REPORT OF THE *AD HOC* COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY LIEUTENANT GENERAL NHLANHLA MKHWANAZI, DATED 10 NOVEMBER 2025

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. On 6 July 2025, the Provincial Commissioner of Police for KwaZulu-Natal, Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi (“Lt General Mkhwanazi”) held a media briefing at which he made public, serious allegations regarding the existence and operation of a sophisticated criminal syndicate that has allegedly infiltrated law enforcement and intelligence structures in South Africa.
- 1.2. Lt General Mkhwanazi also made wide-ranging allegations regarding, among others, political interference in the demise of the Political Killings Task Team (“PKTT”); the existence of a potentially corrupt relationship between certain individuals and the Minister of Police; and the existence and operation of sophisticated criminal syndicates, which are ultimately controlled by drug cartels, involving various role players across the criminal justice value. At the heart of Lt General Mkhwanazi’s allegations, is the involvement of organised crime in and control of politicians, law enforcement officials (from the South African Police Service (“SAPS”), Metro Police and Department of Correctional Services), prosecutors, the Judiciary, as well as businesspeople.
- 1.3. On 9 July 2025, the Speaker addressed separate letters to the Chairpersons of the Portfolio Committees on Police and on Justice and Constitutional Development (“the Committees”) in which she requested the Committees to consider the matter within their respective mandates, assess the most appropriate approach, and submit recommendations for consideration by the National Assembly.

- 1.4. Subsequently, the Committees received an undated advisory note highlighting the urgency of the matter. The Committees were requested to submit a joint report to the National Assembly (NA) by no later than 23 July 2025, containing recommendations on the mechanism and process to be followed in dealing with the matter. Further, the report should contain a summary of findings; recommendations for further action; and any proposals the Committees considered appropriate for the speedy resolution of the matter.
- 1.5. On 16 July 2025, the Committees, acting in terms of Rule 169(1) of the National Assembly Rules, convened to deliberate on the Speaker's request.
- 1.6. On 23 July 2025, the Committees tabled a report recommending that an *ad hoc* Committee be established to inquire into the Lt General Mkhwanazi's allegations.
- 1.7. On 23 July 2025, the NA resolved to establish an *ad hoc* Committee ("the Committee") in terms of Rule 253 of the National Assembly Rules, "*the committee to*  
-  
(a) *investigate the veracity and implications of the allegations made by Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi, including:*
- (i) *the allegedly unlawful decision by Police Minister Mr Senzo Mchunu to disband the PKTT;*
  - (ii) *the allegedly unlawful removal of 121 case dockets from the PKTT on the direction of the Deputy National Commissioner Shadrack Sibiya;*
  - (iii) *the alleged moratorium by Minister Mchunu on filling vacancies within the South African Police Services' (SAPS) Crime Intelligence Unit;*
  - (iv) *the nature and implications of relationships between the senior leadership in the Police and certain members of the public;*
  - (v) *whether the award of a R360 million contract to Mr Vusimuzi Matlala's company for the provision of healthcare services to SAPS was irregular; and*
  - (vi) *the alleged interference by the Investigative Directorate Against Corruption (IDAC) in police matters, including jurisdictional issues;*

- (b) consider the need for legislative, policy, and institutional reforms to restore public confidence in the criminal justice system;*
- (c) have regard to the deliberations of the Portfolio Committees on Police and Justice and Constitutional Development, as contained in the Joint Report referred to in (3) above;*
- (d) exercise those powers in Rule 167 that may assist it in carrying out its task;*
- (e) consist of 11 members, as follows: ANC 4, DA 2, MKP 2, EFF 1, and other parties 2; and*
- (f) report to the Assembly by no later than 31 October 2025.”*

1.8. The Committee met on 5 August 2025 to elect the Chairperson, Hon. MS Lekganyane, and to discuss its mandate.

## **2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

2.1. The Committee derives its authority from sections 42(3), 55(2), 56 and 57(1)(a) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act, 2004 (Act No. 4 of 2004) (“PPIPPLA):

2.1.1. Section 42(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (“the Constitution”), provides that the National Assembly is elected to represent the people and to ensure government by the people under the Constitution. It does this in various ways, including “by scrutinizing and overseeing executive action.

2.1.2. Section 55(2) of the Constitution imposes a duty on the National Assembly to provide for mechanisms to hold the national executive to account and maintain oversight of the exercise of national executive authority, including the implementation of legislation, and any organ of state.

2.1.3. Section 56 of the Constitution provides that the National Assembly or any of its committees may summon any person to appear before it to give evidence or to produce documents; require any person or institution to report to it; compel, in terms of national legislation or the rules, any person or institution to comply with a summons

to testify or produce documents or to report to it; and receive petitions, representations or submissions from any interested persons or institutions.

- 2.1.4. Section 14 of PPIPPLA supplements section 56 of the Constitution. The section describes the form and content of a summons by which a witness is compelled to produce documents or give evidence in a committee enquiry, namely:

*“(3) The summons must state -*

- (a) the name of the person summonsed;*
- (b) the name or designation of the person who must serve the summons;*
- (c) the time, place and venue at which the person summonsed is required to appear;*
- (d) the subject of the enquiry;*
- (e) the purpose for which the evidence of that person is required; and*
- (f) a description of the document, if any, which that person is required to produce.”*

- 2.1.5. In addition, Rule 167(a) of the National Assembly Rules (“NA Rules”) provides that a committee may “summon any person to appear before it to give evidence on oath or affirmation, or to produce documents”.

- 2.1.6. Furthermore, Rule 361 of the NA Rules provides that *“[i]f a witness, whose attendance before the NA or a committee or other forum thereof is required, is being detained in any prison, the person in charge of such prison may be ordered to bring the witness in safe custody for examination as often as his or her attendance is deemed necessary, and on the instruction of the Speaker, the Secretary may issue his or her warrant accordingly.”*

- 2.1.7. Section 57(1)(a) of the Constitution provides that the National Assembly may determine and control its internal arrangements, proceedings and procedures. Furthermore, Rule 167(f) of the NA Rules provides that a committee may “determine its own working arrangements”.

- 2.1.8. The Committee is also guided by the Witness Protection Act, 1998 (Act No. 112 of 1998), and the Protected Disclosures Act, 2000 (Act No. 26 of 2000) and relevant

international best practice on the protection of persons providing evidence before public bodies.

### **3. FORMAT OF THE ENQUIRY**

- 3.1. The Committee met to develop a TOR to guide its process, which were adopted on 22 August 2025.
- 3.2. Among others, the TOR sets out the objectives, scope and format of the enquiry, as well as addressing the public participation process and resources.
- 3.3. The enquiry is conducted as an inquisitorial process in keeping with Parliament's constitutional oversight mandate. It is neither judicial nor quasi-judicial in nature, nor is it adversarial. The process is governed by the principles of rationality, legality, fairness, and procedural justice, as required under the PPIPPLA and reflected in paragraph 5 of the TOR.
- 3.4. In accordance with these provisions, the enquiry proceeds through a structured, evidence-based process designed to uphold fairness, transparency, and accountability. Evidence is led by appointed Evidence Leaders (Senior Counsel), after which Members of the Committee are afforded the opportunity to engage witnesses through direct questioning. This format ensures that testimony is presented in an orderly and impartial manner, that factual evidence and sworn statements form the basis of deliberation, and that issues of governance, conduct, and accountability are interrogated consistently and comprehensively.

### **4. MANDATE AND SCOPE OF THE COMMITTEE**

- 4.1. The Committee's mandate is to conduct a formal parliamentary enquiry into the wide-ranging allegations made by Lt General Mkhwanazi on 6 July 2025 concerning alleged corruption, political interference, and the infiltration of criminal syndicates within law enforcement and justice institutions.

- 4.2. In executing its mandate, the Committee is tasked with investigating the veracity, extent, and implications of the allegations, assessing their impact on the functioning and reputation of the South African Police Service (SAPS), the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the judiciary, Correctional Services, and Metro Police divisions.
- 4.3. The Committee must also identify systemic governance and oversight failures, and make recommendations for legislative, policy, or institutional reforms aimed at strengthening accountability, integrity, and operational independence within the policing and criminal justice sectors. The Committee is required to report its findings and recommendations to the National Assembly, which may direct the relevant portfolio committees to monitor the implementation of these recommendations.
- 4.4. The Committee derives its authority from sections 42(3), 55(2), 56 and 57(1)(a) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and the PPIPPLA. It operates within the constitutional principles of legality, rationality, fairness and the rule of law, ensuring the protection of witnesses and adherence to parliamentary privilege and confidentiality protocols.
- 4.5. The Committee's objectives are to:
  - 4.5.1. Investigate the veracity, extent, and implications of the allegations made by Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi during his media briefing on 6 July 2025, including the evidence of collusion between any State officials and criminal syndicates.
  - 4.5.2. Determine systemic governance failures and propose concrete reforms, whether legislative, policy-based, or institutional, should the need arise.
  - 4.5.3. Identify oversight lapses and make recommendations for performance auditing of relevant institutions, should the need arise.
  - 4.5.4. Determine the scope of the issues raised and assess their potential impact on the functioning and reputation of the SAPS, the Criminal Justice System, the judiciary and high-ranking individuals and politicians.

- 4.5.5. Establish whether any wrongdoing, corruption, or breaches of conduct have occurred within SAPS or any other relevant institution as outlined in the revelations.
  - 4.5.6. Assess the adequacy of internal mechanisms for dealing with corruption, misconduct, and poor management within the SAPS, and any other relevant institution.
  - 4.5.7. Report to the NA on its findings and recommendations by no later than 31 October 2025.
  - 4.5.8. Recommend that the relevant portfolio committees of Parliament must track and report on the implementation of the findings and recommendations of the NA.
- 3.5 The scope of the enquiry is informed by the evidence provided by Lieutenant General Mkhwanazi together with any other submissions presented to the Committee. Such evidence will guide the Committee in determining which witnesses may be invited to appear. However, these materials do not limit or restrict the Committee's discretion in deciding who may be called to give evidence.
- 3.6 The key areas of consideration are outlined below:
- 3.6.1 Political interference within SAPS: Executive oversight versus operational interference by Minister Mchunu (including the directive by the Minister contained in the letter, dated 31 December 2024, to disband the PKTT and the moratorium on filling vacancies in the crime intelligence component of SAPS).
  - 3.6.2 Any related claim regarding corruption (financial or otherwise), bribery, or misuse of public resources within SAPS, or any other relevant institution.
  - 3.6.3 Evaluating the extent of misconduct and unethical behaviour by members of SAPS and any other relevant individuals or institutions.
  - 3.6.4 Evaluating the effectiveness of the PKTT and the official status thereof.

- 3.6.5 The status of the 121 case dockets allegedly removed from the PKTT as directed by the Deputy National Commissioner for Crime Detection, Lt Gen. S Sibiya acting on the instruction of Minister Mchunu to disband the PKTT.
- 3.6.6 Instability within the Crime Intelligence component of SAPS.
- 3.6.7 The alleged corrupt relationship between Minister Mchunu and Mr. Brown Mogotsi, and between Mr. Mogotsi and Mr. Vusimuzi ‘Cat’ Matlala.
- 3.6.8 Internal oversight and accountability mechanisms: Reviewing the effectiveness of SAPS's internal oversight systems in detecting and addressing corruption and misconduct.
- 3.6.9 Leadership failures: Investigating whether the SAPS leadership, including Lt. Gen. Mkhwanazi, took appropriate action to address concerns, and the role of senior management in enabling or preventing the issues.
- 3.6.10 Possible procurement irregularities at SAPS regarding the R360 million SAPS healthcare contract, specifically whether the tender awarded to Mr. Vusimuzi Matlala’s company contravened procurement laws, with reference to concerns previously flagged by Babita Deokaran. Bearing in mind that these flagged concerns or this particular contract does not limit the scope of the Committee.
- 3.6.11 Alleged existence of an organised crime syndicate controlled by drug cartels, as well as businesspeople and its infiltration of key criminal justice system role-players involving politicians, law enforcement from SAPS and the Metro Police Division, Correctional Services, the NPA, and the judiciary.
- 3.6.12 Prosecutorial conduct and the relationship between the Independent Directorate Against Corruption “IDAC” and the PKTT, including whether IDAC or any of its officials unlawfully interfered in police investigations or exceeded its mandate.
- 3.6.13 Alleged failure of any organ of State or member of the executive to comply with their legal obligations, and if so, recommend appropriate action to address such failure.

- 3.6.14 Allegations against Members of Parliament with regards to the classified information released to them, specifically the reference to Members of Parliament who are allegedly linked to criminal syndicates.
- 3.6.15 Impact on public trust and safety: Examining the broader impact of these issues on public trust in the SAPS, Correctional Services, the NPA, the Criminal Justice System, the judiciary and national security.
- 3.6.16 Evaluate chain-of-custody, data-integrity, and record-keeping processes, including digital evidence management.
- 3.6.17 Identify conflicts of interest (political, financial, or personal) impacting decisions relating to the PKTT, Crime Intelligence, procurement, and case allocation.
- 3.6.18 Scrutinise inter-agency coordination among SAPS, Crime Intelligence, IDAC/NPA, Correctional Services, and Metro Police, and the legal basis for directives affecting the PKTT.
- 4.6. In accordance with the TOR, the Committee agreed that the enquiry would be conducted through a structured, evidence-based process,
- 4.7. The Committee agreed to use of the services of external legal counsel to assist it in its work. Senior Counsel would be appointed to lead the presentation of evidence of a witness to the Committee, followed by an opportunity for Members of the Committee to engage witnesses through direct questioning. Advocate Norman Arendse, SC, has been appointed to lead the evidence, assisted by Advocates Maria Mokhaoetsi and Lerato Zikalala.
- 4.8. The Committee convened several meetings to determine the sequencing in which witnesses were to give evidence. As Lt General Mkhwanazi's public statements had occasioned the need for the enquiry, the Committee resolved that he be the first witness to testify before it under oath. The Committee also agreed to an initial witness list: an

expanded witness list would be drawn up as the enquiry unfolded based on the evidence placed before it.

- 4.9. Unfortunately, Lt General Mkhwanazi, only appeared before the Committee on 7 and 8 October 2025. The delay was due to circumstances beyond the Committee's control, among others, this was occasioned by the unavailability of witnesses due to a clash of schedules between the Committee and the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Criminality, Political Interference and Corruption in the Criminal Justice System ("Madlanga Commission").
- 4.10. The Committee, therefore, wrote to the Speaker on 9 October 2025 to ask for an extension to finalise its work in terms of Rule 253(6) of the NA Rules, which was granted until 28 November 2025.

## **5. PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 5.1. In line with its mandate, the Committee held a series of hearings from 7 October to 6 November 2025, during which it engaged with nine witnesses. The following witnesses were consulted and appeared before the Committee to provide evidence under oath or affirmation in accordance with the adopted TOR:

No	Witness	Designation	Date
1.	Lt General N Mkhwanazi	SAPS KZN Provincial Commissioner	7 October 2025 8 October 2025
2.	General F Masemola	SAPS National Commissioner	9 October 2025 10 October 2025
3.	Lt General S Sibiya	SAPS Deputy National Commissioner: Crime Detection	13 October 2025 14 October 2025
4.	Minister S Mchunu	Minister of Police	16 October 2025 17 October 2025 21 October 2025 22 October 2025
5.	General B Cele	Former National Commissioner and Minister of Police	23 October 2025 24 October 2025
6.	Deputy Minister C Mathale	Deputy Minister of Police	28 October 2025
7.	Deputy Minister Dr SP Boshielo	Deputy Minister of Police	4 November 2025
8.	Minister Prof F Cachalia	Minister of Police (Acting)	5 November 2025
9.	Adv. A Johnson	National Head: IDAC	6 November 2025

5.2. The Committee also identified the following persons as forming part of the witnesses list:

No.	Witness	Designation	Date
10	Adv. Shamila Batohi	National Director of Public Prosecutions	11 November 2025
11.	Mr C Nkabinde	Chief of Staff: Minister S Mchunu	13 November 2025 14 November 2025
12.	Prof Mary de Haas	Academic	18 November 2025 (TBC)
13.	Lt General Mosikili	SAPS Deputy National Commissioner: Policing	19 November 2025 (TBC)

No.	Witness	Designation	Date
15.	Lt General Fani	SAPS Divisional Commissioner: Supply Chain Management (SCM)	20 November 2025 (TBC)
16.	Lt General Dimpane	SAPS Divisional Commissioner: Financial Management Services (CFO)	21 November 2025 (TBC)
17.	Lt General Senthumule	SAPS Divisional Commissioner: Detective and Forensic Services	25 November 2025 (TBC)
18.	Mr Vusimusi Mathale	Private citizen	26, 27 and 28 November 2025 (TBC) <i>In situ at Kgosi Mampuru Correctional Centre</i>
19.	Mr J Mkhwanazi	Ekurhuleni Metro Police Department	No time scheduled
20.	Paul O Sullivan	Private citizen	No time scheduled
21.	Lt General Khumalo*	SAPS Divisional Commissioner: Crime Intelligence	No time scheduled
22.	Brigadier S Kunene	SAPS KZN Head: Serious Violent Crime	No time scheduled
23.	Ms Patricia Mashale	Private citizen	No time scheduled
24.	Mr Brown Mogotsi	Private citizen	No time scheduled

\* Lt General Khumalo has been unavailable due to ill health

5.3. It should be noted that the list above is not exhaustive. Based on the evidence presented to the Committee, additional material witnesses may be identified and consulted as the enquiry progresses, while others may be removed should they no longer be required. The list remains under continuous review and is therefore subject to amendment.

5.4. The Committee has instructed Counsel to consult the witnesses before their appearance before it. In addition, there may be a need to recall certain witnesses.

- 5.5. A pre-visit to the Kgosi Mampuru Correctional Centre was conducted by the Parliamentary Protection Service, which confirmed that the venue meets the requirements for an *in situ* engagement with Mr Vusimuzi Mathale.
- 5.6. As the preparation and presentation of witness testimony takes time, the Committee does not envisage that it will complete hearing witness' testimony before 28 November 2025.
- 5.7. Furthermore, once it has heard from all the witnesses, the Committee must still engage in a deliberative process, in which it considers the totality of the evidence before it, draws conclusions, and makes recommendations, before reporting to the House.

## **6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- 6.1. Section 59 of the Constitution obliges the National Assembly to facilitate public involvement in all its processes. In accordance with this constitutional imperative, the Ad Hoc Committee recognised public participation as a substantive pillar of its work.
- 6.2. On 19 September 2025, the Committee invited individuals and interested organisations to make written submissions on matters falling within the scope of the enquiry with a closing date of 17 October 2025.
- 6.3. In response to the invitation, the Committee received several hundreds of submissions. Perusal of the submissions established that many originated from a single automated source or consisted of multiple entries from the same individuals seeking to expand or clarify their statements. Once the automated submissions were identified and multiple entries consolidated, there are a total of 286 written submissions of a substantive nature from individuals and interested organisations.
- 6.4. An initial assessment of the submissions, which repeatedly refer to interference, corruption and misconduct within the policing and criminal-justice environment, suggests the existence of governance failures of a systemic nature.

- 6.5. The Committee intends to meet to discuss the appropriate response to the submissions and, having done so, may wish to call some submitters to appear before it to give oral evidence.
- 6.6. However, due to the volume of the submissions received and the care that is required when considering submissions containing sensitive information, the Committee does not believe that there is sufficient time for it to finalise its public participation process before the deadline of 28 November 2025.

## **7. EXTENSION REQUIRED**

- 7.1. The Committee submits that there is not sufficient time for it to complete its work before 28 November 2025, for the reasons set out below:
- 7.1.1. Based on the evidence before it, the Committee has identified several additional witnesses whose evidence is expected to be central to the enquiry. These individuals are currently being consulted by Senior Counsel and the legal team prior to their appearance before the Committee. This preparatory process is necessary to ensure that their testimony is properly structured, relevant to the scope of the enquiry, and supported by verified documentary evidence where appropriate.
- 7.1.2. While an analysis of the public submissions has been done, the Committee must still consider the submissions, which are extensive, in conjunction with the presentation of oral evidence from identified submitters. As such, their consideration requires careful deliberation. Given the volume and the sensitivity of the submissions, the Committee would not wish to undermine the public participation process it has undertaken by rushing consideration of the submissions.
- 7.2. The Committee, therefore, requests a further extension to afford it sufficient opportunity to complete its work, considering the work that is still required and the Committee's concerns about rushing its public participation process.

### **For information purposes**

