

UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



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YOUTH POLICY

POLICY NO: 01

UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY POLICY

1. Background

1.1 Introduction

Background to Youth Development in South Africa

In post Apartheid South Africa, one major challenge for the transformation of society is the transition from an education system that was designed to maintain social inequality and restrict academic achievement to one that fosters achievement and well-being for everyone. Although educational opportunity has increased dramatically, employment and educational resources are far from being in line with need. Black students face daunting challenges in the effort to evade the dangers of drug abuse, family disintegration due to AIDS, violence and economic hardship.

South Africa is currently celebrating 14 years of democracy. The country is often looked at as a shining example of democratic transition. South Africa also has a large youth population. And youth unemployment has emerged as a major developmental challenge for a post-apartheid South Africa. This paper attempts to explore the various policies and programmes that South Africa has put in place to address the challenges of youth unemployment. Some of these policies and programmes are explored from the municipality level but the emphasis is on national level.

Understanding the Background to the Youth Development Challenge

According to the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (Case) Youth Survey 2000, 35% of the South African population are between the ages 16 and 35. This accounts for approximately 14.4 million people. When the African Nation Congress came into power in 1994, it was faced with the task of addressing the needs of young people in South Africa. Providing a Response to the youth issue was imperative for 3 reasons. Firstly, young people were integrally involved in the liberation struggle both internally and

externally. These “young lions” fought in the ANC liberation army and formed the nexus of cadre ship within the internal Mass Democratic Movement. It was therefore “payback time” for young people in relation to their contribution to the liberation struggle. Secondly, the youth development challenges of young People increased as a result of their involvement in the liberation struggle.

Young people sacrificed their educational needs and aspirations under the motive of “liberation first, then education”. Young people also had very little skills and in some instances were highly militarised. The growing incidence of teenage pregnancies and HIV was prevalent. As a result, the new government had to respond to these escalating youth development challenges. Thirdly, young people have a significant stake in the outcome of elections. This is due to the sheer numbers of young people that meet the voting age requirements. International trends indicate that young people become apathetic about voting if they feel that their lives have not improved. Therefore any new government has to be seen to be doing something for youth in order to retain and capitalise the youth vote.

For the new government to provide a response, the issue facing youth in a post-apartheid South Africa needed to be located within a public policy framework. Youth were a vulnerable group within South African society, and the previous government did not have any policy relating to youth. Therefore, the new government had to formulate policy, and in turn this policy would shape and inform a systematic and comprehensive government response.

The Eastern Cape Youth Commission (ECYC), which is an institution that is responsible for advising and guiding the Eastern Cape Provincial Government and legislature and other government agencies or levels on youth development, has identified several youth development priorities for the province from a broadly consultative process. These are:

- Youth unemployment
- Rapid spread of HIV and AIDS
- Limited or unequal access to education facilities and low education standards

- Lack of youth development infrastructure
- Limited participation in development projects
- High youth involvement in crime
- Lack of leadership skills

In this respect then, the ECYC selected platforms for action. These include human resource development, HIV/AIDS, economic development and crime prevention. Informed by the above background then the UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY shall have the following strategic policy and focus on youth development.

1.2. Definition of Youth

In the National Youth Commission Act youth are defined as those people who are between the ages of 14 and 35 years of age (this is the definition that has been used in all youth planning and statistical representations – of Statistics South Africa, 2001).

2. Problem Analysis

Umzimvubu Local Municipality youth development strategy shall focus on the following challenges.

2.1 Human Resources Development (HRD) Challenges

The municipality sees the following HRD challenges as the priority for attending the youth development.

Illiteracy amongst youth especially young males

Lack of career guidance

Lack of skills and training

Absence of database of unemployed youth and their skills profile

Unavailability or inaccessibility of financial support for skills development
Alarming spread of HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy

Continued inaccessibility of higher education to youth

Unavailability of exchange programmes

The continuous higher education drop-out rate

These are a result of combined effect of the apartheid legacy, special dislocation of 'black' youth from work. Lack of information to youth and inaccessibility of resources

2.2 Youth Economic Development Challenges

The municipal local economic development (LED) interventions on youth development shall be informed by the following challenges:

- Out-of-school graduates and semi literate youth are involved in crime because of exclusion and discrimination from the local economy.
- There are no youth economic support centres focusing on such services as tender advice and accessing capital.
- Young people generally lack skills which make them unemployable.
- Lack of resources for promoting economic development amongst youth.
- The municipal procurement policy is not biased towards the youth.
- Youth are not yet benefiting from the current municipal and local business opportunities.
- Inaccessibility of Land to youth.

These challenges are a result of non-integration and lack of targeting of youth in economic development within the municipality

Amongst the youth, the following groups are the most affected by these challenges:

- Unemployed youth
- Disabled youth
- Unskilled youth
- Illiterates youth
- Street kids

- Commercial sex workers

2.3 HIV/AIDS Challenges

The Umzimvubu Local Municipality take the challenge of HIV/AIDS very seriously but acknowledges that more could be done to prevent the spread of the virus and its negative social consequences. This is crucial because of the following challenges:

- Health Institutions are not resourced and geared to attend to the HIV/AIDS challenges facing youth.
- Limited availability of voluntary counselling and testing facilities for youth and where they exist the skills levels are low.
- The rate of HIV/AIDS infections amongst youth continues to be high in the Umzimvubu Local Municipality.
- There are few youth health workers, support groups and youth centres for supporting youth living with HIV/AIDS and affected by the pandemic.
- There is a continued poor use of contraceptives, condoms and especially female condoms
- Youth are not participating in clinic committees.
- The UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY lacks coordination mechanism for support grants of HIV/AIDS infected youth.
- Families, peers and partners have limited awareness of their supportive role in relation to the youth infected by HIV/AIDS.
- Limited HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns

These challenges arise from ignorance, illiteracy, poverty, sexual abuse and fear of rejection. This pandemic affects all youth.

2.4 Main-Streaming Challenges

Many of the above challenges result from inability to mainstream youth development. In part, this is both symbolised by and resulting from low levels of youth mobilisation, limited targeting of youth in service delivery processes and a lack of resources to contribute to youth development. These challenges can also be attributed to the continued lack of creative leadership both in the municipality and the youth sector to fulfil this role. Another significant cause is the absence of a structured engagement of youth in the IDP process, including budgeting, and the LED forum. Even ward committees continue to marginalize youth. All of the activities currently taking place occurs without a guiding strategic framework. Another fact is the lack of Youth Forum in the Municipality.

2.5 Absence of youth Advisory Centre

The Umzimvubu Local Municipality recognises its lack of Advisory Centres for sport and recreation facilities and ICT centres.

3. Policy Objectives

- To develop the skills of employed and unemployable youth each year until 2021 through an integrated skills development programme.
- To increase the active participation of Umzimvubu Local Municipality youth in the local economy every year until 2021 through a sustainable youth economic empowerment programme.
- To decrease the incidence of HIV/AIDS amongst youth each year until 2021 through a participatory, multifaceted, integrated and well-resourced intensive HIV/AIDS programme.
- To mainstream youth development in the affairs and structures of the Umzimvubu Local Municipality through annualised planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth programmes utilising an escalating budget of a percentage (to be determined by council from time to time) of the total municipal budget.

4. Institutionalisation of Youth Development

The Umzimvubu Local Municipality will align itself with the Youth Development framework guidelines that with regard to the institutionalisation of Youth Development.

In terms of The National Youth Policy 2000, a government-adopted policy, the local government sector is the most important implementation phase in government. It says:

As a minimum requirement, however, all local governments are required to fulfil the following essential functions in regard to the development of young women and men.

4.1 Nominate an elected Councillor who shall take responsibility overseeing council's youth development policies and activities.

4.2 To undertake an audit of the youth programmes, services and organisations located in the local area:

4.3 To identify the priority needs and opportunities facing young women and men and their development.

4.4 To establish permanent mechanisms for participation by young women and men on their representative organisations in the planning and decision-making of council (p.54).

This is further expanded by section 9.1.3 of the NYP 200, which states,

"There are many roles local government can play in the development of its young residents. These include:

4.5 Establish a standing Committee on Youth Affairs as means of informing and sensitising council and to make proposals for local youth programmes and services;

4.6 Creating mechanisms for young people to understand the issues of governance at local level.

5. Youth Development Programmes

5.1 Youth Skills Development programme

The Umzimvubu Local Municipality shall implement an integrated Youth Skills Development Programme. The components of the programme are the following:

- Developing and maintaining a skills profile of the youth of the municipality.
- Producing and implementing a municipal youth skills development plan annually, this shall be reviewed quarterly.
- Provision of an Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) service to illiterate youth.
- Facilitate training relevant to the economic trends of the local/district/provincial economy.
- Facilitate mentorship, internship, and leadership opportunities for unemployed youth both within and outside the municipality.
- Facilitate financial support for marginalised youth seeking participation in higher education.
- There shall be integrated delivery of these components, with annual reporting by the municipality.

5.2 Youth Economic Empowerment Programme

Youth participation in the metropolitan economy is a priority of the Umzimvubu Local Municipality. This shall be achieved through a Youth Economic Empowerment Programme (YEEP). The YEEP shall have the following components:

- The municipality shall set aside a percentage (as it will be determined by the council from time to time) of all jobs created by the municipality, other public sector agencies and private sector, more especially those doing business with the municipality, for unemployed youth in the metropolitan area.

- Facilitate at least a percentage (to be determined by Council from time to time) for participation of young entrepreneurs in business opportunities created by the municipality within the municipality.
- Avail suitable land for subsistence and commercial agriculture within the municipality to youth.
- Facilitate and support the formation of youth co-operatives that will be linked to production processes across sectors such as tourism, manufacturing and information technology.
- Facilitate the success of the youth enterprises that are doing business with the municipality or having business facilitated by the municipality through the provision of institutional and technical support to young entrepreneurs.
- Facilitate the preparation of youth in and out of school for the exploitation of economic opportunities available through mechanisms such as career guidance and life skills.
- Implementation of the YEPP must be simultaneous with the other programmes of this strategy as they are closely related.

5.3 Youth United Against HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is seen by the Umzimvubu Local Municipality as a serious challenge and the municipality shall implement an integrated youth programme against HIV/AIDS. The programme shall entail:

- Implementation of a vigorous HIV/AIDS education and awareness project through the schools, extra-educational clubs, community institutions and public media with youth as audience.
- Consolidating and expanding the voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) project.
- Training Youth on peer counselling skills.
- Facilitating a life-style and treatment management project for the youth living with HIV/AIDS.
- Empowering families of those living with HIV/AIDS in order to provide the required support.

- Facilitate the empowerment of health institutions and personnel in order to be youth sensitive and supportive.
- Support a project aimed at protecting victims of rape against HIV/AIDS.
- Set-up and support facilities aimed at preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV targeting young women.
- Support and promote the campaign of tuberculosis treatment in HIV cases and in youth generally.
- Provide a social-safety-net for those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS.

This multi-faceted intervention shall be implemented within the context of the provincial and national policy and strategy on HIV/AIDS.

5.5 Mainstreaming Programme

All of the above programmes require adequate institutional support for their success. The Mainstreaming Programme (MP) is aimed at putting in place sufficient conditions for implementing this strategy with administrative ease.

- The Umzimvubu Local Municipality shall set-up a municipal youth unit that shall oversee and advise the municipality with the implementation of this strategy.
- The youth organisation of the Umzimvubu Local Municipality shall form a youth forum that will serve as a broad consultative forum for youth development (Youth Forum).
- The forum shall have standing sectoral clusters for LED, HIV/AIDS and HRD, which shall continuously discuss policy, programmes and strategies for youth development.
- A youth forum of Umzimvubu Local shall be convened from time-to-time for purposes of contributing in the IDP and Budgeting processes resulting in Youth Sector Plan based on this strategy.
- Umzimvubu Local Municipality shall report annually to the youth of the municipality on the progress made in implementation of the Youth Sector Plan.

- The Umzimvubu Local Municipality shall ensure that each municipality department includes youth programme in its plans and account for their implementation as part of continuous performance management.
- UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY shall continuously investigate and explore innovative mechanisms for advancing youth development (e.g. Youth Development Fund) without any bureaucratic bottlenecks.

5.6 Monitoring, Evaluation and Review System

There shall be monitoring, evaluation and review system (MERS).

The Monitoring component will have the following elements:

- a) Ensuring compliance with Objectives.
- b) Output data collection and analysis.
- c) Continuous analysis of the “Inputs-activities-Outputs” cycle
- d) Risk monitoring and mediation through a risk management plan.
- e) Decision-making and programme adjustments as may be required.

The evaluation component shall be constituted by the following elements:

- a) There shall be quarterly municipal-evaluation exercises in line with municipality’s PMS.
- b) Systems cohesion analysis will also be done quarterly.
- c) An external control such as mid-term and year-end youth development auditing shall be set in motion.
- d) An independent assessment of the effect on beneficiaries shall be done annually.
- e) Facilitation of quarterly reviews and insights, which shall be published for public dialogue.
- f) A learning network shall be developed for sharing lessons learnt.

The third component of the system will be reporting on the progress of programmes. Once this has been established, the following shall be components of the reporting systems:

- a) Quarterly reports to ULM Council and the Youth Forum.

- b) Annual Reports to Umzimvubu Local Municipality Council, the Youth representative forum, ECYC and NYC.

6. Conclusion

For this policy to be implemented it will need a political and moral buy-in from all stakeholders, including managers of various municipality departments. This can also be coupled with the creation of an enabling by-law for the establishment of proposed institutional arrangements.