

FRIDAY, 13 JUNE 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2025

The hybrid proceedings started at 08:30.

The Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr P Govender, took the Chair and requested the House to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation.

SESSION 1: HIGH-LEVEL OPENING ADDRESS

CHAIRPERSONS: THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender AND HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick)

OPENING REMARKS

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Hon members, Speakers of the legislatures that are joining us on the virtual platform, hon delegates of the NCOP and the National Assembly, invited guests, support staff and our most important guests today – that is, the youth representing the youth of our country – I welcome you this morning.

Good morning, ...

IsiXhosa:

... molweni, ...

Sepedi:

... dumelang ...

IsiZulu:

... sanibonani, ...

Xitsonga:

... avuxeni.

English:

It is wonderful to have you here with us today. It is really our vision that you are the trail blazers, you are the change-makers of South Africa and indeed, Africa as a whole. I would like to formally welcome you to this inaugural P20 Youth Parliament. A historic moment where your voice, your energy and your ideas take center stage. Today, under the bold theme, and I quote: "Youth Economic Participation, Employment and Opportunities - Developing a Medium-Term Youth Development Agenda for South Africa's Youth."

We are not just talking policy here today, we are making it personal, practical and impactful. We have spent considerable time to design the programme in such a way that it becomes

your platform. We believe that nothing can be done about youth matters without youth involvement. The Constitution drafted by your forefathers, your mothers and even your grandparents have guaranteed that in anything we do, nobody should be left behind and in this vein, no youth should be left behind.

As we gather in the heart of South Africa's legislative drafting and oversight body, that is Parliament, we are sending a clear message to the nation and the world that youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow, you are the leaders today and you will lead the process towards achieving the change that South Africa needs. I want to reiterate that the decisions made in this room can shape strategies, budgets reform and opportunities that will define the next decade. The future now lies before you to shape. I would like to take the same approach as I did for our Africa Day lecture, I put forward a challenge to you.

Firstly, be bold in your ideas; secondly, be fearless in your participation and thirdly, be united in your commitment to a more inclusive, innovative and youth-driven future. You are here because your voice matters. Let us challenge assumptions, let us propose real practical solutions and above all, let us do this together with the purpose, passion, pride and patriotism. Let us get South Africa to work. With those opening comments, I welcome you. Let us engage in a manner

that will put South Africa first. As you take your place as the future leaders, I welcome the Speaker of the National Assembly, the hon Didiza, to address us.

The SPEAKER (Ms A T Didiza): Co-Chairpersons hon Frolick and hon Govender, Chairperson of the NCOP in absentia, Minister Chikunga and other Ministers and speakers who may be on the virtual platform in our respective provinces, the Secretary of Parliament, the Secretariat of the two Houses of Parliament, Members of Parliament, the young parliamentarians who have been involved in the preparation of this session of the Youth Parliament today and who I hope will continue to work with you as we prepare to host the P20 in October this year, starting with the P20 Youth and P20 Women engagement on 30th of October that will give an input to the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit to be held from the 1st to 30th of October this year.

Today I would also like to honour you, the young people of South Africa, in your various groupings. Some of you are in political parties, some in civil society, some in academia and the private sector. You are all recognised, but to those of you who are here in the House today, I will do the honour of calling you "hon members" I hope that the members of our parties who are part of our youth caucus, even though it is not formalised and I want to formalise it, because we have a women's caucus and we need an all-party parliamentary youth

caucus that meets at certain times to address the concerns of the youth in our legislature and in our various policies.

Order!

Hon members, distinguished guests, welcome to this august House which is an institution that craft laws that governs our lives and the guardian that oversee executive action and hold our executive to account. This House brings to life concerns of our electorate and becomes a platform for debates in which we ensure that our society's concerns are addressed. It is in this House that where our public representatives who we elect ensure that the interest of all South Africans in their diversity are deliberated upon.

Today, as a Parliament, we have created a platform for the young people of our country, together with their representatives who are a part of you, to come together to commemorate and honour the role that young people have played in the liberation of our country. We honour their short-sightedness, their selflessness, their resilience, and their commitment in ending a brutal system that dehumanised a section of society and took away the dignity of a majority of our people and delayed progress as a nation.

We do so because memory is important not only to remember but to actually etch in our memory that this freedom did not come

for free. We remember these heroes and heroines because they laid their lives in order for us, who are seated here today and outside are free and have a franchise.

We may not yet be economically free as we would have wanted, but I think the first step of ensuring that we can choose the people who will represent us, we can choose a government that we want, that we can stand here and deliberate about their concerns, knowing that there is no hindrance that stand before us.

We remember them in their deeds in order to underscore the responsibility that who the living still have to fulfil in order to ensure that their fight was not in vain.

Each day we remember the generation before them and after. We remember the young people who worked towards bringing the concerns of their communities to Kliptown where the Freedom Charter was adopted 70 years ago. We remember the young people of the 40s who actually bring brought impetus in how our democracy can actually be brought to bear speedily.

We remember the young people who actually started the End Conscription Campaign to start to challenge the authorities at the time that why should we die in the foreign lands when we can actually sit together as South Africans and solve our

problem? Each day we remember those young people who formed part of the first democratic Parliament and legislators that lay to the foundation of the institution that we are in today.

Today, we also remember the consciousness that young people who led to the "Fees Must Fall" movement brought in ensuring that our society and government expand the access to education and ensure that the doors of learning indeed are opened. We remain conscious that it is the generation of young people that are here in this House and others who are confronted with many challenges, particularly the challenge of unemployment in our country despite completing their studies. It is for this reason that our theme today focuses on economic participation and employment.

I sometimes say, others may think it was more of a challenge to bring down apartheid and colonialism. But I want to add, it is more of a challenge to rebuild. It is more of a challenge to integrate and build a society that does not look at each one of us from the prism of race, from the prism of gender, but building a non-racial, non-sexist society. It is this challenge. And particularly yourselves, seated here and in our legislatures who actually bring a bridge that must now ensure that we, as a people, become part of a global community. It is you who face a new challenge where we must rethink the world of work.

As we celebrate the importance of technology in advancing our development, it also raises particular fear about reimagining what the world of work will be. So, you must never underestimate the significant role that we have to play to build this new society. You must never underestimate the responsibility you carry that will make the future generation look at what you have done to build a platform for them to survive.

Co-Chairpersons, hon members, as we build a new society that is founded on democratic values and respect for human rights for all, we are conscious that many challenges still remain despite the progress that has been made. Some of which you yourselves have been a part of. The challenge of unemployment and, in particular youth unemployment, remains a sore point in the attainment of our democratic dividend.

During your deliberations today, and I would say further, you need to reflect on ways in which our country can grow our economy that allows for participation for all South Africans. As much as we are a part of the global community and therefore affected by geopolitical shifts, it is important that we find solutions that address our immediate challenges as a country in order to give hope to those young people who feel in the margins of our society.

Economic participation, in my view, cannot be realised unless we create an enabling environment that is conducive for many to participate. We need to look at how our corporate citizens of this country, the private sector, support the transformation agenda. Maybe if I were to ask a question which you may answer is deliberate, are our financial institutions friendly to young entrepreneurs?

Many of you, when you finish school, even if you want to start your own business, when you go to one of our financial institutions, whether it is a private or even a development financial institution, the first thing they will ask you is a business plan. And the second thing would be to ask what your net worth is and if you are just out of school, you do not have one. Some of us do not even have a balance sheet. Not even a balance sheet from our parents, which can somehow shoulder the risk. So, it does not matter what ideas you might have, you already meet the first blockage.

The second question I would like to ask, and this also applies to my young Members of Parliament here. Is the legislative framework that we have set - Is it flexible enough to create a framework and at the same time pave the way for young people who want to become entrepreneurs? If you want to start a business, you already have to pay some money to register. Even though it is easier now and you can do it online, you still

have to pay. You have to pay just to reserve a name that says: "Thoko's Kitchen."

If you participate in trading, you must actually ensure that you have sufficient logistical infrastructure to enable you to trade. There are no thresholds that says, if you are a young person starting a business for the first time, you must at least have these cushions in place to make it easier for you. So, I am saying unless we re-look at all those things, we may not be able to deal with the challenge that we face.

But also, how do we start to become producers of the goods that we consume? What will that take in terms of the competition in the industries? Is our legislation in terms of trade and development conducive for young people? If I were to go back on my previous life, young people who wanted to become farmers, even with the skills or even with two cattle or a goat that they may have been able to have acquired, access to land becomes a difficulty. Either in the rural, because if you are a young woman in particular, you have to have an uncle or a brother.

IsiZulu:

... ozoya kobika kwaNkosi ...

English:

... that this is indeed my sister ...

IsiZulu:

... ngowalapha.

English:

So, the issue of equality is still an uphill. But also, even if those young people were to go to government to access land, it is not quite easy to actually be seen as the one that is eligible if you had to stand side by side ...

IsiZulu:

... noMaZondi oyimina ...

English:

... who might have been there.

IsiZulu:

... uyabona senginesiqunyana ...

English:

... They would look at me first before they look at this young Thoko to say, can we really trust her with such an asset? I was confronted two years ago with a situation where a young 10-year-old in Tembisa, who was particularly good in planting and had already started giving some of his produce to the

child welfare, said to me, can I assist with land? And I said ...

IsiZulu:

We Nkosi ...

English:

... where do I get a law that allows for a 10-year-old? So, what I did was to give her climate smart boxes for him to utilise as part of his production, 10 of those, which I bought out of my money and said, because there was no policy that would have allowed me to actually assist a "child." That young person today has continued to produce, not only giving, but also selling now to complement the family income.

But also, he has been instrumental in educating his peers in the township in Tembisa where he stays, but also in his school about the importance of food security and being able to produce food for themselves.

I am raising these issues with you because there might be constraints that are so specific to young people that we may not be alive to, that we need, as we work on our legislative framework, take into consideration in order to ensure that your participation in the economy is actually better than it was for all of us.

Today, as part of the global economy, as well as global society, we have decided to create this platform where we can solicit views of young people in our country as we participate in the P20 Youth Parliament to ask ourselves, what are those issues at a global level that you as young South Africans are concerned about? How do we address the issues of solidarity and sometimes the contradiction that emerges in the global community, but at the same time, knowing how, through that solidarity, we were able to attain our freedom?

How do we deal with issues of sustainability in such a competitive world where, at times, we have to bury or rather carry the can of what actions of other countries have in our environment? So, issues of climate action and sustainability are equally the issues that we, as young people, need to have a voice on and how we mobilise those with whom we participate and engage with in the global forum to say, what is it that we need to do in order to protect our environment?

If you look at the past three years, and I would dare say four years, we have started to see the impact of climate change in our shores. Just this week, we have seen inclement weather in Eastern Cape, which has taken 49 lives and some of those schoolchildren. We have also seen in KwaZulu-Natala, KZN, about two hundred households whose roofs have been blown out

for the wind. Something that was never normal in the previous years in understanding our Geography.

Today, you never actually know whether Gauteng is Cape Town because Gauteng's weather now behaves like what you usually know as Cape Town weather that changes every day. But that is what climate change has brought to bear. So, we cannot, as young South Africans, not factor that issue in our debate as we look at solutions for the future.

Chairperson and hon members, I need not to remind you that the world we live in is mirrored by many issues and hardships, ranging from climate risks, trade protectionism, high levels of poverty and unemployment, as well as intensifying geopolitical tensions to mention but a few.

History has taught many of us that youth is a sacrosanct ingredient in the process of formulating sustainable solutions to the challenges that we face today. You as young people, are dynamic, innovative, but also you are energetic, making you a valuable asset to champion and perceive social and economic justice in our society. But I also must qualify that young people need experience. That is why you need intergenerational, so you cannot wipe us away immediately. But at the same time, to gain that experience needs active

participation. I know that some of you might have wondered today why we need to make future persons of the session.

You cannot learn unless you become part of that experience. But also, as the older generation, we need to be able to acknowledge that in that learning process there might be some mistakes. And it is for you to be able to help you so that you can grow, because mistakes and failures, I dare say, are part of enabling us to grow.

I do think that from where you sit, you possess the energy, but also you possess the intellect that can actually be able to change our situation.

Co-Chairperson, it was the youth of the 70s that took a bold step and stood against the immorality of imposing a certain language as a medium of instruction in schools. Today, we pride ourselves of the democratic institutions like the Pan South African Language Board and CRL Rights Commission which are a testament to efforts of the 1970s.

And I do say that what will become important as we build this new society, it is also about teaching each other 's language and culture. We might have fought on an imposition on a particular language, but today we have a responsibility to learn each other's language and be able to appreciate what

this diversity brings in its strength. It is also important for us as young people to look at how we will use this platform to also bring back the multiplicity of youth, some of whom who may not be here today, because they too matter. Their issues are our issues.

Chairperson, one of the challenges that we continue to face in our society, it is issues of gender-based violence and violence. While gender-based violence, I think because of its brutality, becomes etched in our minds every day, the issue is how do we build a society that will respect and value each other's contribution. We cannot wish away the other gender because it too has a role to play. For us, it is about being able to develop means of how we can resolve tensions without resorting to violence. It is about how we can look at each other, even if we differ, but appreciate humanity in all of us.

I hope as young people, we can actually be the teachers of the old, because part of the pain is much more felt by this old generation who have experienced part of this brutality. I think through you and the opportunities that democracy has brought of enabling you to interface across sectors and culture, you might be able to build a country where first we see ourselves as South Africans before we can see ourselves as white, brown, black, or pink, or Xhosa, Zulu. Not that those

are not important, but in building a new society, we need to build a South African nation.

Memory ensures that we do not forget, but memory ensures that we are able to learn from that history so that never and never again we can go back there. You are most welcome, and I would like to wish you success in your deliberations. Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr P Govender): Hon Speaker of the National Assembly, thank you for those inspiring words, as well as your words of welcome. I'm sure you'll agree, hon delegates, that the hon Speaker has given you food for thought in terms of the number of issues that she is aware of, and I'm sure you will place more issues on the table as the day goes on. So, hon Speaker, thank you very much. I know you have another engagement now and you have to rush off, but we thank you for being with us and opening this session with your kind words. I was very happy that you used the one word that defines you amongst all South Africans, order, hon members. You brought that into your speech. Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and we do give you leave.

Hon members, in your packs, there is a document that reads the rules governing procedures in sectoral parliaments, it should be in your packs. If it's not there, we will get it distributed to you, because it is important that you know the

rules that will govern this session today. Familiarise yourself with those rules when it gets to you. I'll ask the support staff to please make sure that copies are made and distributed. I will now, symbolically, hand over our chairperson positions, and I will call upon the hon Kumbaca and the hon Mokae to take the seats here and we will then leave this platform until later today. Thank you very much, hon Frolick, my co-chair, thank you.

SESSION 1: MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Ms A N KUMBACA and Mr O J MOKAE

Ms A N KUMBACA (Co-chairperson of the session): Order, hon members. The hon Speaker in absentia, the hon Minister, hon House Chairs and the hon members of the Youth Parliament, good morning. Before I hand over to the Minister, I just want to welcome you all to the session. Today we gather as young leaders, not merely to debate and deliberate, but to shape real and tangible solutions to the pressing issues we face in our communities and in our country. I also want to remind you that we are here to build our today and build a shared future which I believe we need to own. We're also mindful of the recent events that have deeply affected many of our fellow South Africans, in particular, we acknowledge the tragic national disaster in the Eastern Cape, and we extend our thoughts to those who have to rebuild their lives at this

moment. Let's use this platform as a vehicle for transformation in the lives of ordinary young South Africans.

Let us challenge one another today with respect and speak truth to power with integrity, because at the end of the day, we as young people are the power. As the Speaker has articulated, our freedom did not come easy. We are the generation that must finish what our elders started. They championed the freedom from oppression, but we must ensure our freedom from poverty, unemployment and inequality. I also believe that we can turn struggle into strategy and our protest into policies that will be implemented and that will ensure that young people in this country prosper and reach their true potential. With that being said, I now call upon the Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, hon Minister Chikunga, to deliver a message of support. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:
Programme directors, our guests who are South Africa's youth, thank you for the opportunity to share this message of support on behalf of the Ministry in the Presidency of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities during this first sitting of the Youth Parliament under the 7th Administration and at a time when South Africa holds the Presidency of the G20.

This sitting is not only national in scope, but it also forms part of the broader P20 process, which brings together parliaments from the G20 countries to amplify voices across sectors including women, youth and persons with disabilities. In this context, Youth Parliament is not peripheral, it is a core platform in the architecture of global democratic dialogue. We look forward to the participation in the days you have set aside during the P20 for engagements among young parliamentarians across the G20 countries. Given our commitment to Disability Inclusion Initiative G20 working group, we hope you will always lift that flag in the discussions and here in Parliament.

Hon Speaker, please consider the resuscitation of the disability Parliament. Co-chairpersons, we meet in a month that carries deep historical political weight, Youth Month, a time when we honour the courage of the 1976 youth and reflect on the unfinished work of generational justice.

This sitting taking place within the formal structures of Parliament reminds us that democracy is not only defended through elections. It is deepened through active and inclusive participation. It is not the youth event, it is a constitutional moment, a demonstration that the voices of young people are not ornamental, but fundamental to the integrity of our democracy.

Our Constitution does not suggest public participation. It demands it. Today's Youth Parliament is a practical expression of that constitutional promise. It is a reminder that young people are not just the future, they are present day stakeholders in the life of our democracy and in our country where over 60% of the population is under the age of 35. It is not only rational that young people are ahead, respected and reflected in the highest decision-making spaces. Too often we speak of youth as vulnerable groups and yes, youth face intersecting crisis unemployment, exclusion, gender-based violence and femicide, climate injustice, et cetera. But young people are not simply vulnerable, they are valuable. They are not just the constituency in need. They are generation in motion. They are an asset. They are an investment.

Just on Wednesday, we engaged with youth from around Cape Town, here in Parliament. Yesterday, we constituted Youth Think Tank here in the Western Cape. And already we all have some work to do and report back. Ours is solution oriented and I invite anyone interested who is here to join our Think Tank or Youth Think Tank.

Across South Africa, youth are developing AI tools for education, launching architect ventures, organizing climate action campaigns, expanding the creative economy and reimagining what public service can look like. What they need

is not charity. They need capital market connection and trust. This is why today matters.

Youth Parliament gives young people the space to present their own solutions in their own voices to those who hold the levers of policy and implementation. It is not consultation, it is core governments, as the Ministry responsible for coordination youth development across government, we do not take lightly the mandate placed upon us. Through the Medium-Term Development Plan 2024/2029, we are embedding measurable youth development indicators across sectors from education and employment to entrepreneurship and participation. This is not just data for the sake of it, it is how we track progress exponential and drive accountability. We're also working to institutionalized with desks and use focal points across all departments.

At the programme level, we are proud to support a series of catalytic initiatives, including, among others, the SA National Service Institute, SANSI, the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention and the Youth Endowment Fund.

Programme directors so let us be clear, this Youth Parliament must not be a moment. It must be a movement. May your voices today echo far beyond this Chamber. May they shape policies, shift power, and sharpen our democracy. I'm here not just to

speak, but to listen, to learn, and to be held accountable. I thank you very much.

Mr O J MOKAE (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you very much, hon Minister, for those messages of support. We really appreciate you and you are the relevant Minister in the executive who must fully participate in the session. Indeed, young people to the front as you can see as well with my co-chair. Hon members and delegates, I will take the proceedings forward. I just want to acknowledge members of the executive who are also on the virtual platform. We've got Deputy Ministers on the virtual platform as well as Ministers who are following the proceedings. To take the programme forward, we've got our second speaker who's also going to give a message of support, is Miss Lisoletu Jacobs, who is Miss Teenager Universe Africa. Let us give our well, welcome to the podium.

Miss LISOLETHU JACOBS (Miss Teenager Universe Africa): Greetings, distinguished guests, esteems parliamentary esteemed parliamentarians and fellow young leaders. It's my great honour to be invited to such an amazing and prestigious event that celebrates and acknowledges the youth of South Africa. Today, we gather here with the shared vision for a brighter future driven by the power of youth.

My name is Lisolethu Jacobs, Miss Teenager Universe Africa 2024, our training queen. I've witnessed the potential of young people in South Africa to shape change. Now empowering youth for a sustainable future resonates so deeply as we recognize that our generation holds the key to unlocking innovative solutions, driving economic growth and promoting social justice. Six pivotal sub themes that will shape the future foundations and our continent includes 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.

Industrialization and employment are important because supporting industrial development creates jobs and opportunities for many youths. By investing in the industries that drive growth, we can reduce many unemployment and stimulate economic progress, 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. Inclusive social development promotes social inclusion, reducing inequality and ensuring that everyone thrives. By

addressing social injustices and promoting equal opportunities, we can build a more equitable society.

African development, where we can collaborate to align with African Union Agenda 2063 driving continental progress now this ambitious plan can outline a future of prosperity, peace and development for Africa, and we must work together to make that happen.

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 skills, knowledge and competencies needed to drive innovation and growth. As I stand on behalf of the youth of South Africa and advocate for youth empowerment, young leaders, we have a unique opportunity to shape the future of our continent.

Let's work together to drive innovation and entrepreneurship, foster partnerships and collaborations, promote social justice and equality, empower marginalized communities to build a brighter future for all. Let's make our voices heard, leveraging our unique perspectives and experiences. We will learn from each other, share our ideas and build partnerships that will last a lifetime. Thank you.

Ms A N KUMBACA (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you very much Miss Lisoletu Jacobs for those encouraging words.

Indeed, the future is bright, and we are not asking for a seat at the table indeed. We are building new tables. We're here to build new tables led by a generation that is ready to lead with clarity and courage.

So, your words have definitely echoed and enhanced our conversation that we are attempting to have today. I will then call upon Mr. Michael-Daniel Bam, who is the Cape Town Junior Mayor to provide his message of support. Thank you.

Mr MICHAEL-DANIEL BAM (Cape Town Junior Mayor)): Hon Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Hon House Chairpersons, hon Members of Parliament, Secretary to Parliament, fellow youth leaders and delegates, fellow scholars, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Firstly, I'd just like to say, please do forgive me if I stumble a little bit, I have never been so nervous in my entire life. It's like, wow. So, good morning.

I stand before you today with deep gratitude, not only as the Junior Mayor of Cape Town, but also as a proud member of South Africa's youth. Today, we gather not for spectacle or symbolism, but to give shape to the future. The theme before

us: "Youth economic participation, employment and opportunities" is more than just words. It is the heartbeat of millions of young South Africans.

This gathering is a critical moment within South Africa's historic G20 presidency, a chance for our nation to lead the world, not just in economic policy but in justice and hope. The world is watching us. But let me be clear, far more crucially, our peers are watching us. The unemployed graduate, waiting at home. The child who walks into a classroom hungry. The learner denied access to quality education. The matriculant with potential, but no funds for university. These are not abstract issues, these are real lives, real futures and real stakes. They are watching

We refuse to be called the leaders of tomorrow, while unemployment, inequality and exclusion define our today. The truth is, if we are truly the leaders of tomorrow, then we must begin to lead today. Why wait for the future when the future is already here? We are ready to step up, to take responsibility and to shape the world now, not later. This is no time for empty promises or surface level talk. Instead, we need a youth development agenda that doesn't just check boxes but breaks down walls. An agenda that unlocks the potential of every single young person in this country.

So, I want to ask all of us today to really think about this: Have we truly created economic growth that includes every young person? Is our industrial development creating real, lasting jobs and giving young people the skills they need to thrive? Are young people being engaged in meaningful ways, or are too many voices still being left out? Do our social policies acknowledge the invisible battles that many face, whether mental health challenges, chronic illness, or the long and daunting shadow of our country's history.

These are not just questions to answer today, they are challenges to hold ourselves accountable to, not just as politicians or leaders but as a nation that truly cares about its youth and its future. To my fellow young leaders in this Chamber, know this, there is absolutely no such thing as the perfect moment, the perfect plan or the perfect conditions to begin. Waiting for the stars to align is how change is delayed. It's how progress is delayed. We are the generation that starts where we are, with what we have and with who we are. That is by far more than enough to begin shaping the world we want to live in.

To hon members and presiding officers, thank you for this platform. Let us commit to making this Youth Parliament not a onetime event, but a living, breathing institution where young people are embedded in policy, governance and global

conversations. Let this moment be a turning point. Where words become action. Where hope begins to take shape. Where youth inclusion moves from beyond a distant goal to a living reality. Because if South Africa is going to lead the G20 with courage and conviction, it must first lead its own youth with justice and resolve. So, let the work begin. I thank you.

Mr O J MOKAE (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you very much to the Junior Mayor of Cape Town.

IsiXhosa:

Nguye uMajoro wethu ke lowo. Siyabulela kakhulu Majoro.

English:

I think what I took from the presentation by the junior mayor, the future is now. We have always been told that you are the leaders of tomorrow, but ...

IsiXhosa:

... uMajoro uthi ...

English:

... we are the leaders of now. We thank you very much for those kind words. Hon delegates and fellow young people, I just want to mention that on the virtual platform, we've got about 114 participants, and they are drawn from across civil

society. They are from academia. They represent youth formations on the virtual platform. So, let us acknowledge ...

IsiXhosa:

... nabo banathi namhlanje ...

English:

... and also participating in the session. Our co-chairing draws to an end. We've got two other colleagues, one from the National Council of Provinces and one from the National Assembly, who will take us through the next session. The next session is: Strategic insights and analysis. We've got presenters from government institutions as well as other entities who are going to assist us taking forward this session.

Thank you very much hon Kumbaca for chairing the session with me. I'm not going to call hon Zondo who's going to chair and I don't see hon Chirwa-Mpungose who's supposed to co-chair the session as well. All right, without further ado, over to you, hon Chirwa-Mpungose and let us have fruitful engagements. Thank you very much.

SESSION 2: STRATEGIC INSIGHTS AND ANALYSES

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Mr S S ZONDO and Cllr Lucky Godfrey Sele

Mr S S ZONDO (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon members, order. Hon Shikwambana.

Mr M SHIKWAMBANA: What have I done now? No.

Mr S S ZONDO (Co-chairperson of the session): What is wrong now?

Thank you, hon Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP. Hon Minister of Women, Youth and People with Disabilities, hon Speaker, in absentia, hon Members of Parliament, the young leaders of this country, hon delegates who are representing South Africans, I greet you in this time of the day.

I see hands of members, I do not know what happened.

Let me give members a chance and hear what you want to say because we are about to start this session.

Mr M SHIKWABANA: Hon Chair, the mic is on. Can you please switch it off. This one.

Mr S S ZONDO (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon member, you wanted to say that? Alright, thank you.

Mr S T D LOUW: Hon Chairperson, thank you very much. I heard that when we started that we are going to be provided with rules. I have not received rules yet. I would not want to go beyond the jurisdictional behaviour of Parliament. So, I propose that because not all of us will be inclined or familiar with rules.

We request that rules are availed, and we utilise them to guide us so that we are able to assist others. Thank you very much. Nice attire Chairperson. Thanks.

Mr S S ZONDO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you. I think that is being sorted because I think the rules are needed. They were supposed to be on our tables before we came here. However, I think they are going to be made available on the members tables.

I thought this thing that I am from KwaZulu-Natal when I always got to sit in the Chair the person I am supposed to chair with just got lost. I do not know why they have replaced the person that I was supposed to sit with.

What is it now?

Mr M SHIKWAMBANA: The first issue is: You are saying rules are going to be provided and busy attending to that. Who is doing

that so that we can make follow up? Can we be told who is arranging that.

The second issue is: There is no one who ran away. We have spoken to the people running this programme. The hon Naledi Chirwa is arriving. Wait, she will join you.

Mr S S ZONDO (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon members, please we have a long day.

Can we please continue with the business of the day. Please.

I think I am going to ask for cameras to be switched off because I know members get into this thing of wanting to be seen.

Stop what you are doing hon members. Order, hon members!

An Hon MEMBER: Chairperson, it is Tshiamo on virtual platform, can I speak?

Mr S S ZONDO (Co-chairperson of the session): Alright. Order, hon members, let us continue with the business of the day. I am about to call Mr Solly Molayi the Acting Deputy Director-General at the Statistics SA to come forward and give us the statistics overview of your development. Over to you, sir.

**STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA - UNPACKING THE STATUS OF YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA: PROVIDING HIGH-LEVEL STATISTICAL
INSIGHTS ON YOUTH POVERTY, YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND LIMITED
ACCESS TO ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr SOLLY MOLAYI (Statistics SA Acting Director General): Good morning, colleagues. My name is Solly Molayi. I am a statistician by profession. I am here to share with you colleagues, The State of the Youth in South Africa. I am here to narrate the story through a statistical lens. Please, let us go through this journey because I am going to share with you where we are in terms of development with regards to youth. Can we flight the presentation please? Thank you so much. Let's go to the next slide.

Let's start at the beginning. How many are we in South Africa? We are sitting around 63 million, all of us. The population is growing around 1,3%. Let's go to the next slide. The Minister already spoke about this slide. Colleagues, there is about 2,8 million youth in South Africa. If you combine that with children, we are sitting around 38 million. When you look at the proportions, it means that about 60% of the population is below 35 years old.

We already said that we want to build new tables. The power is in the youth: The numbers are saying that. However, if you go

to the next slide, you see that we still have some challenges. Where if you go to Home Affairs and you look at the number of ... I am going to skip some of the slides, colleagues, because of the time. This slide is just indicating to you that there is a number of youth-headed households in South Africa, and it has been increasing over time. We are now sitting around 4,7 million of households that are led by youth.

If you go to the next slide, which is the slide that I wanted to talk to you about, which I think as we are discussing today, we also need to take into account what is happening in our society. If you look at the number of young mothers who gave birth aged between 10- and 19-year-old, and if you look at the proportions, out of all the beds that occurred in our hospitals, they range between 11% and 12%. These are some of the challenges that we have to discuss as we are discussing the challenges that are facing the youth.

Let us skip the slides; let us go to the slides that talk to living arrangements, because we have to understand how living arrangement in the next slide is talking about. If you look at the living arrangement of children, you will notice that nationally, 45,5% of children live with their mothers only. I know that statistics is not a favourite subject in schools and in universities.

So, if you look at the brown colour or the grey colour, it shows you those who indicated that they don't live with either a mother or a father. Again, if you look at the provinces, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo are leading in terms of the proportions. On our two economic hub provinces that are sitting below, which is Gauteng and the in Western Cape, you see that the proportions of those who said they lived with both parents are quite high.

The next slide talks to the issues around education. As we were preparing this presentation, we were requested that we really need to look at issues around education. As you see, if you look at the slide starting from the left-hand side where we are talking about preschools, up until your secondary schools, you will realise that there is a universal access to primary and secondary schools.

Where we are still experiencing challenges is when you get to the post-matric level. You realise that the proportions are still quite low. Also, there is a big block at the corner on the right-hand side of the slide that says, "Not in education or training". This is still a challenge in South Africa, and the next slide will demonstrate that.

If you now look at the actual age of educational institutions, amongst those who are between 15 and 24 years old, you could

clearly see that the "Not in education or training", increase with age, starting from age 17, up until age 24. This is still a challenge, and I think today, as we are debating, we have to come up with some solutions that talks to these.

The next slide is the slide that personally resonates with me. The Auditor-General always tells me that we shouldn't be emotional statisticians, but this one hit home. If you look at the reasons why some of our young children are not attending school, and you look at comparing males and females, you will realise that "Family commitments" with females became one of the reasons cited the highest.

What does this, "Family commitments" mean? It means that if there is someone in the household who is sick, and we have a boy child and a girl child, we are most likely to request a girl child to stay at home and assist. This is also a challenge that we have to think about as we are debating these challenges.

Let us skip these slides and let us go to the slides that talk to the labour market. I think that Statistics SA has been in the news recently, in terms of how we are measuring unemployment. I can assure you: Unemployment in South Africa is not 10%. We are sitting at 32,9% in terms of our official

unemployment. Let us go to the next slides to try and take these numbers, looking at the youth.

If you look at it in terms of the age, and if you ask me what the face of unemployment in South Africa is, I will say it is in two faces: The youth; and black African women. We still have a challenge in terms of understanding our youth, and these numbers are already telling us the unemployment rate where we are sitting, as well as absorption rate and the participation rate.

The next slide demonstrate this point that I have made: In terms of looking at the youth, unemployment still remained high over the past decade. As we are moving towards 2030, and just celebrated our 30 years of democracy, unemployment is still a challenge in South Africa. This is still an official unemployment rate; it is not an expanded one, where we are taking into account discouraged job seekers. If you look at the proportions for youth, which is aged 15 to 24, we are sitting at about 46,1% unemployment rate.

Can we go to the next slide which demonstrate what is happening within the provinces? If you take unemployment rate and you look at whether youth are participating in the economy to get absorbed into the labour market, you realise that provinces, like the Western Cape, have got the highest rate of

labour force participation. Hence, when you look at their unemployment rate, as the province, it is quite low, and you could realise where other provinces are sitting, especially the North West and Eastern Cape.

The next slide talks to discouraged job seekers. Out of the 3,5 million job seekers, two million of them are youth. Let me repeat this: Out of 3,5 million job seekers, two million are youth. Basically, what it means is that most of these discouraged job seekers are youth. That is a challenge which we also need to discuss today, to say figure out how we are going to make sure that the youth become part of the production means.

Let us go to the next slide - a slide that we are tracking as Statistics SA - which is quite also challenging because this slide says that we do have a high rate of youth that is neither in education nor in training, and they are not even employed. We called this group, "Need." We are sitting at about 3,8 million out of 10,3 million of young ones who are neither in education nor in training, and they are not even employed. It is a challenge that we also have to discuss.

Let us keep the next slide. Let us go to a slide that talks to the employment by industries and occupations because the question is: Among those who are employed, as youth, in which

industries are they employed? You could see from the right-hand side we are talking about trade, community, social services and finance; whilst on the other side of the slide, the occupations are elementary jobs, sales and clerks.

Only as you go down the list, will you see managerial and professional jobs categories for youth, which we had hoped should be at the top. If we are building a new society, today, and we are saying the future of the youth is today, which occupations are the use occupying? Let us go to the next slide the next slide talks about the issue of giving the youth an opportunity to acquire experience.

If you look at the data that we have been tracking over the past 10 years, it shows that those without experience are most likely to struggle to get into the job market; whilst those with experience are more likely to be employed, and the numbers are showing that in terms of the youth. We really need to create the space for youth to have access to experience.
Chair.

Chair, I know that I am left with about three minutes. Let us go to the next slide that talks about the informal sector, because it was a discussion that happened this week, and it is a discussion that I also had with the Speaker while she was around. The narrative is that at Statistics SA, we do not

measure the informal sector; but in actual fact, we do. The informal economy has shown over the years that it is a life blood of the economy of South Africa. We are sitting at about 1,9 million South Africans who are running nontaxable registered business.

If you go to the next slide, which talks to the youth - when you look at the age and specifically the youth - you realise that when you compare statistics for 2001 and 2023, few youths were running informal businesses. There was a question already this morning, on: How are we going to ensure that the youth have access to resources that enable them to run their own businesses.

The next slide, which is going to be my last slide because of the time, is on the issue around understanding the income gaps, and also, understanding the expenditure that is incurred within a household. We are going to overlay that discussion with the access to social grant. Going to the slide, where we look at the average annual household income, you could realise that if you overlaid population groups, the black Africans are still far below the national household income average.

You could also realise that if you look at an income rate within households, and you compare it with an expenditure rate within those households, the income and expenditure rates for

black Africans are almost close to each other. The white-headed households earn five times more than the black African-headed households. The difference in ratio for those households is 15 to 24.

Let us go to the next slide. This slide demonstrates that if you take the same indicators and you look at it in terms of education, those with no schooling are mimicking almost the same pattern, similar to the previous slide; whilst those with teacherly education, if you look at the expenditure and vice versa, their household income is quite different to those with no schooling.

The next slide to talks about the youth income. We have seen an increase in youth income, specifically on the youth benefitting from social grants. Whether you look at it from the household perspective or you look at it from the individual perspective, you will realise that the grey bar demonstrates that this increase started to grow significantly immediately during or after Covid-19; and it has been driven by the SRTs. You will realise that this has increased over time.

On the next slide, I have tried to bring this message home. To conclude my presentation, I already told you that almost 60% of the population is youth. I have told you that the face of

unemployment is youth. I have already told you that there are some challenges when you compare the girl child and the boy child in the household. I already told you that there is disparity in living conditions or the living arrangements within households, as very few children seldom live with both parents. I have also told you that the youth has benefitted significantly in terms of social grants.

This slide is also telling you that if you compare youth income between 2019 and 2024, particularly if you look at age 18, you will realise that the red bar has increased. It is driven by the SRTs. This is the reason why we see that more and more youth is benefiting from social grants. Chair, my time is done. Can I conclude here, colleagues? The presentation is available. I couldn't go through all the slides.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga.

Cllr Lucky Godfrey Sele (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, Mr Molayi. Good morning, hon members and distinguished guests. My name is Cllr Lucky Sele, representing SA Local Government Association Youth Commission, and I will be co-chairing this session. I want to give words of appreciation to Mr Molayi: Your presentation is not just the statistics;

however, it is a lived reality of many young people who live in our local municipalities.

We will move to the next segment of our program and call to the podium the National Planning Commission, which will be represented by Miss Phumzile Chifunyise and Dr Tshepo Feela.

**NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVES
THE G20 AND P20 PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES, TO ADVANCE YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT**

Ms PHUMZILE CHIFUNYISE (Commissioner: National Planning Commission): Morning. I think I need a sash and the crown so that I can also get a standing ovation. When I grow up, I will also get there.

Setswana:

Dumelang.

IsiZulu:

Sanibonani.

English:

Hon members, all protocols have been observed. An official special greeting to all the young people that we are having the pleasure of being in the same room as, both physically as

well as online. In today's crucial discussion we will be speaking about the economic participation and advancement in reshaping of young people in the economy, as well as in job employment and labour transition opportunities in the country.

My name is Phumzile Chifunyise. I am a commissioner at the National Planning Commission, and I'm joined by fellow commissioners, commissioner Tshepo Feela, and commissioner Morne Mostert. I would also like to apologise for some of our other commissioner members who could not be here in person today, commissioner Pillay and commissioner Naidoo.

We are extremely honoured and excited to be amongst your midst today. I think the previous speakers have spoken about the context in which young people are operating and existing in the country, both from a statistics perspective but also geopolitically and economically as well as we've heard. But I think also we are recognising the consciousness of young people that we saw almost a year today, where we saw a pushback of young people in Kenya against proposed tax regimes.

As in our organisation that is not necessarily in government, that's the National Planning Commission, we are here today to propose suggestions and global benchmarked solutions of how we are envisaging reshaping the participation of young people. We

have benchmarked against various models globally from countries such as Brazil, India, Indonesia, across the continent, Kenya, Tunisia, Senegal, but also in South Africa as well. I think that's something that should not be underestimated. It is something that we should not overlook as we go forth to identify global models of practice.

I am hoping that the presentation can be flighted as well so we can all follow at the same page. Our presentation is going to briefly touch on introducing ourselves or yourselves to the National Planning Commission. We will touch on our approach to youth development and how we are looking at integrating youth development within the National Development Plan, particularly looking at the priorities and indicators of youth across the various chapters of the National Development Plan. Most importantly, we have identified about six or so proposals that have come from various global models all encompassed on economic participation of youth, looking at various sectors, but also integration into labour transitions and how we can also monitor and ensure implementation of those proposals.

Just a brief background and I'm hoping that the slides can follow my flow. Yes, here we are. So just a brief background. We are the National Planning Commission, and we are the custodians of the National Development Plan. It is not a government institution, but it is an independent body that is

faced with the task of providing advisory and evidence-based research to government and all members of society. As we know, the National Development Plan is a document that is co-created by all members of society, so we do that from an evidence-based perspective across the economy, across the social sector and governance as well.

How we are approaching youth development as the National Planning Commission is that currently we are seeing that the NDP recognises youth as a cross-cutting demographics, which is fantastic. However, in the past we have seen that it does not necessarily take into consideration some of the evolving context that young people are faced with. So our integration of youth and our approach as the third National Planning Commission is to integrate youth across all sectors of the economy and society and all chapters of the National Development Plan.

Whether you are talking from an economic and formal and informal sector perspective, how many of the jobs that we are intending to create. Of the 24 million jobs that we are looking to create by 2030 are owned and led by youth. Whether we are talking about it from a social perspective, spatial planning, the transformation of rural and urban planning. How many of those title deeds are being held by young people all the way to safe communities. Every aspect of the 13 chapters

of the National Development Plan as an organisation or as an institution, we are looking to integrate and have that being led by young people.

One of the interventions that we've been busy with as the National Planning Commission is to diagnose as to where exactly is the advancement and development of youth across. For example, the various ecosystems players that are strengthening youth development across the country, we are finding that there is lots of activity with regard to skills development and creating economic generating opportunities for young people. However, there's very little mechanisms to track all of those interventions across the country. So we've gone and done a mapping of those ecosystem players to exactly find out who is doing what and how that can be amplified and skilled up.

The second process that we have done is that we have consulted with civil society to benchmark best practice approaches and catalytic approaches and programmes that we can amplify for them to be the national programmes of the future where youth opportunities and economic participation opportunities can be strengthened. We have also had consultations the various NDP chapter list to identify challenges and opportunities in the various sectors that they are leading to advance the National Development Plan.

I think the most important thing that we are doing when we are interrogating how we can best advance the national youth development in the country through the NDP is to look at the three key policies where youth are being entrenched, the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, the National Youth Policy, as well as the Integrated Youth Development Strategy. Our ambition is to create a diagnostic and benchmarking tool so that when the next ... [Inaudible.] ... of the National Development Plan then we have got an evidence-based understanding of where are the challenges, where are the pockets of excellence, and how we can best improve youth integration across policy instruments.

What has been a positive highlight that we have identified through this diagnostic process of the various youth policies that we have is that there seems to be alignment through these three policy instruments. However, there are opportunities to improve, and I think the biggest points of improvement lie in monitoring and evaluation as we embark on implementation and having key champions at a national Parliament level to make sure that all of these targets that we set across these policies are being implemented accordingly. I will then hand over to my colleague who will take us through some of these proposals.

Dr TSHEPO FEELA (Commissioner: National Planning Commission):

Good morning, colleagues. As my colleague has spoken, I am just going to just go through quickly some of the interventions that we want to propose in dealing with the youth crisis here. But I must first say that I am happy to be here. I hope I make it on TikTok as well.

Firstly, on the youth employment opportunities, we as the National Planning Commission, NPC, are saying that we have an unemployment problem - yes, we acknowledge that. Perhaps we should start looking at exporting our labour and looking at global initiatives in which we can take our labour and our youth and gear them to export this labour into different countries.

We are far from solving the problem of unemployment and perhaps then we should look at the different markets in which our skills and our labour can be exported. We are also saying that we can do with the Youth Employment Accelerators.

Currently, we have the SAYouth.mobi initiative in which we match skills to opportunities that exist in the markets. But we can intensify those efforts so that, especially the youth in rural areas, townships and so forth, have access to these opportunities.

Youth employment zones: we do have Special Economic Zones, SEZs, that are currently run. But in order to foster innovation, we could create concentrated youth initiatives in employment zones that would primarily be focused on jobs of the future, will primarily be focused on innovation, technology and Fourth Industrial Revolution and AI and things like that.

We also came up with the idea that sector master plans; we need to create a voice or an opportunity for youth to be able to influence policy. We do have the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA. We do have a few other channels where the youth can participate. But we need to be intentional with it. We need to understand where the youth stand. We need to give them a voice. They need to influence policy as we make it. So we cannot have a conversation about the youth without the youth in the room.

In the funding models that we have through the government institutions, we need to be specific with youth-owned companies and startups. We need to create funds and be able to fund start-ups that are specifically for youth. That are specifically for innovation. That are specifically for job creation and employment. Looking at the different countries, like my colleague has said Kenya, United States, Nigeria, they have been quite intentional with youth. They have been quite

intentional with how they fund the youth. So we need to adopt the same mentality.

As a country we are going through a youth bulge where you know the majority of the population is youth and we cannot have the majority of the population unemployed and suffering. So we need to be quite intentional and create these policies. We do have future jobs. We do have economies that are emerging, and we also need to place the youth in these economies. For example, your green economy, social economy and digital economy. We need to be quite intentional in placing the youth because at the end of the day when these economies uptake, the youth will be the ones that are particularly participating in them. So we need to create these models that will fund start-ups within these economies.

With that, the NPC has made some recommendations that we will put forward. For the sake of time, I will just go through few of them. We are saying that we need to adopt a Presidential Youth Development Compact and to co-ordinate all of these efforts. So there needs to be a task team that will co-ordinate all these efforts for youth. We need to prioritise intergovernmental co-ordination and youth-led implementations. We are saying that we need to mobilise public-private and international partners in resourcing the agenda, including prioritising existing catalytic programmes. So we ought to

then create a space where all of these efforts are co-ordinated from the ministerial department all the way to civil society so that then we can track them and build. Come five years from now we can say okay, this is the difference that we have made. These are the initiatives, and this is what we have achieved. And with that, colleagues, let me thank you.

Cllr LUCKY GODFREY SELE (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you very much to the National Planning Commission and appreciating their presentation as well. Taking note that this intervention began 15 years ago and today we still engage on integration of young people in the National Development Plan. We will move to the next presentation from budgeting for youth priorities. I would like to take this opportunity to call Dr Mbava to come make that presentation. Thank you.

**THE ROLE OF THE FINANCE AND FISCAL COMMISSION IN ENSURING THAT
GOVERNMENT'S MEDIUM TERM BUDGET COMMITMENTS, EFFECTIVELY MAKE
PROVISION FOR THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

Dr PATIENCE NOMBEKO MBAVA (Chairperson, Financial and Fiscal Commission): Presiding officers, good morning to all delegates, hon Speaker in absentia, House Chairpersons, distinguished Members of Parliament, MPs, Cabinet Minister Chikunga.

My name is Nombeko Mbava, I am the chairperson of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, FFC. Today I will be speaking to you, delegates, on youth economic participation, employment and opportunities.

As I present this topic to you, what we want to do as the Financial and Fiscal Commission is to examine with you the critical challenges facing South African youth in the labour market and also to present to you some of our evidence-based recommendations that we have made with regard to the issues of youth unemployment.

On my agenda today I will focus on key areas. Firstly, I'll just give you a brief outline of the role of the Financial and Fiscal Commission.

Secondly, I'll also highlight some of the key relevant points which were raised by the President in his state of the nation address regarding youth unemployment.

Thirdly, I'm going to contextualize youth unemployment in South Africa with the current data that we have, supporting what Statistics SA has already given to us.

Fourthly, I'll also explore how our intergovernmental fiscal relations system relates to youth unemployment.

Fifth, I will also look at how government spending is on skills development through Sector Education and Training Authorities, Setas, has actually worked and what impact it has had.

Sixth, I'll also look at our research findings as FFC on youth unemployment.

Finally, I will outline the commission's recommendation for addressing this crisis.

Just to contextualize briefly what is the FFC? Why is the FFC critical in this debate?

So, the constitutional framework outlines that we have a Financial and fiscal Commission, which is a constitutional institution established under Chapter 13 of our Constitution. We make recommendations to Parliament, to provincial legislatures and other authorities on crucial fiscal matters, including equitable revenue shares, government guarantees, provincial and municipal taxes and loan arrangements.

Importantly, and what is very critical, all legislation in these areas may only be enacted after our recommendations, as the FFC, have been considered.

So, therefore, this gives the commission a significant influence when it comes to shaping our fiscal policies that affect youth employment.

Slide 4 essentially talks about what is the criteria that we use as the FFC when we make our recommendations. So, when we make our recommendations we are essentially guided by the Constitution, we must consider that the 10 specific criteria there, which includes considering the national interest of the country, we must look at the national debt obligations, the need of all the three spheres of government, and also we must make ensure that the municipalities and the provinces have the fiscal capacity to implement their mandates.

On Slide 5 I want to talk about some of the key areas that the President highlighted in his state of the nation address when he was talking about the vision for the future, where we are moving as South Africa.

So, President Ramaphosa then reaffirmed that we are still committed as South Africa to the Freedom Charter's vision. He also highlighted that the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP, identifies three strategic priorities, which include inclusive growth, job creation as one of the key factors.

Specifically, when it comes to youth unemployment, the President highlighted a few things. He said that Public Procurement Act, the regulations thereof, will be fast-tracked because these will benefit youth-owned businesses. He also celebrated about 235 000 work opportunities that were created through the National Pathway Management Network. And he also called on businesses as well, to utilize the sayouth.org ... [Inaudible.] ... which has 4,5 million registered young people at the time.

When you move to Slide 6, where we look at the youth demographics, this slide presents a pyramid which compares 1996 and 2022 census data.

South Africa's youth is defined as individuals aged between 15 to 34 years, comprising just over one-third of our population, that's about 21 million young people out of 62 million people in total.

The demographic shows a slight female majority at 50,1%; so, we have more women than we have men, just slightly. This represents both our greatest resource and our greatest challenge as we must create meaningful economic opportunities for this substantial population segment.

If we move swiftly to Slide 7, here we are looking at provincial youth unemployment rates. What is a provincial picture looking like? So, the data reveals a deeply concerning trend. National youth unemployment has increased from 36,8% in 2014 to 45,5% in 2024. Most provinces exceed the national rate, with North West having an unemployment rate of 53,2%, Free State having 52,1% unemployment rate and Mpumalanga having 50%, being the worst affected provinces. Particularly alarming is Limpopo, where unemployment nearly doubled from 24 to 47%. Even Gauteng, our economic hub, saw youth unemployment rise from 35,2% to 48,9%, contradicting explanations that blame rurality alone.

Moving on to Slide 8, where we look at discouraged youth by province and gender. The slide shows you a horizontal bar where it shows both male and female who are discouraged. The data on discouraged youth reveals shifting gender dynamics.

So, in 2014 female youth were more likely to be discouraged than males, but by 2024 this pattern reversed, male discouraged youth increased marginally from 11,1% to 11,2%, while females discouraged youth declined from 11,7% to 10,5%. Gauteng and the Western Cape showed the largest increase in both male and female discouraged youth, suggesting that the Western Cape's apparent improvement in youth unemployment may

actually reflect increased discouragement rather than genuine job creation.

In terms of Slide 9, where we look at interprovincial migration patterns. What you see on this slide is a horizontal bar chart which shows the net migration flows, the number of people moving away from the provinces, right, from 2016 to 2021.

The migration patterns revealed significant population movements. Approximately 865 000 individuals moved to Gauteng, and 317 000 to the Western Cape, while about 300 000 left the Eastern Cape and 162 000 left Limpopo. This is migration driven by searches for better services and job opportunities, contributes to the concentration of discouraged youth in second provinces.

This highlights the need for improved infrastructure, stable electricity and water supply, and conducive business environments across all provinces to create employment opportunities where young people live.

Moving on to slide 10, where we look at youth unemployment by educational attainment. Here we have the pie chart comparing 2014 and 2024 unemployment by educational level. Contrary to

conventional wisdom, that more education alone solves unemployment, our data shows concerning trends.

The proportion of unemployment youth with less than matric decreased from 55 to 43%; while those with matric, unemployment increased from 37 to 46%. Graduate unemployment tripled from 1 to 3%. This suggests that as youth gained their qualifications, they become more reluctant to accept ... [Inaudible.] ... level jobs in agriculture, manufacturing or even services. Therefore ... [Interjections.] ... Therefore, we need to shift policy focus from purely educational attainment to practical on the job training and skill work transitions.

Moving on to Slide 11, where we look at the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations, IGFR, system and the vertical division of revenue. This slide shows that our Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations system affects youth unemployment through revenue allocation mechanism. The Division of Revenue Bill determines how nationally raised revenue is distributed.

Provincial Equitable Share Formula, introduced in 1998 following the FCC recommendations, allocates provincial revenue based largely on population, but it doesn't capture youth unemployment dynamics. While this system, therefore, has remained stable, it does not specifically address employment

creation, therefore, it represents a gap in our fiscal architecture.

Moving on to Slide 12, where we look at the provincial equitable share, this is the allocation that is being made through the budget process to the provinces. The Provincial Equitable Share Formula uses six components. Essentially, it looks at education, at health, poverty, the economic activity in the provinces and other factors.

While the Provincial Equitable Share funds social services that develop skilled youth, it doesn't directly incorporate unemployment dynamics or even earmark funds for job creation. For example, Gauteng received 20,9% of provincial allocation, largely due to population and economic activity. But this does not address its 48,9% youth unemployment rate.

Moving on to slide 13, the Local Government Equitable Share Formula. The Local Government Equitable Share Formula provides unconditional transfers to municipalities so that they can be able to do service delivery. This is based on the number of people at the local government level, the poverty levels and also the service delivery cost.

So, while the Local Government Equitable Share enables crucial infrastructure development that can indirectly create jobs,

the formula itself does not directly incorporate local youth unemployment dynamics or explicitly allocate funds for job creation initiative. Therefore, this represents another gap in our fiscal system as a response to youth unemployment.

Moving on to slide 14, where we look at how much government has spent in terms of learning and culture. Despite increased financial commitments to learning and culture reaching nearly R3 billion in 2025, youth unemployment continues to rise during this period. This disjuncture between investment in youth preparation and actual employment outcomes signals that our current policy approach centred on learning and culture may not effectively translate into desired economic outcome.

And then I move ... I want to move to the next slide, which just speak about the Setas and how effective the Setas have been. The Sector Education and Training Authorities, their expenditure grew at an average rate of about 6,7% between 2013 and 2023.

So, these Setas, there are about 21 organization, they are supposed to support workplace-based learning across key economic sectors. However, this increased funding for skills development has unfortunately not resulted in significant reductions in youth unemployment. This, therefore, raised questions about how effective are the Setas in terms of their

program effectiveness and also the alignment with labour market demands?

And then swiftly, as I move on to the Slide 16 ... yes, as I conclude, Chair, I wanted to just move maybe to skip some of the slides ... maybe if I can move to the recommendation of the FFC to Slide 19, which is important for me.

So, we made some recommendations with regards to how we allocate the budget process. We said that our first key recommendation is to systematically increase the proportion of gross fixed capital expenditure.

So, right now, Chair, what we do in the budget, we spend a lot of money on consumption and we are recommending as a commission that we shift that expenditure towards our capital investment.

I will share some of the slides with the colleagues, but the important thing as I moved to the last slide, Slide 23 ...

Cllr L G SELE (Co-Chairperson of the session): Let's give Dr Mbava a round of applause. Thank you very much. [Laughter.] Your time has expired. [Laughter.] Thank you very much. Let me also thank Dr Mbava.

Take this opportunity to appreciate being given the platform at this highest level in our country in the NCOP. We're particularly humbled in the 49th anniversary of the Youth Month, that when we leave here, young people would move from being discouraged to encouraged and would move from being hopeless to hopeful.

Dr Mbava touched on a critical part of her presentation relating to the review on the White Paper on Local Government in terms of the Distribution of Revenue Act, DORA Act, and equitable share. And I hope that the lawmakers in this platform would help us to arrive to a particular conclusion that is beneficial to our communities, our society and particularly our sector, which is local government. Thank you, House Chair and hon Minister.

Mr S S ZONDO (Co-Chairperson of the session): As we wrap up now this ... our part, thanks to the presentation. But I want to give it to you young people of this country. These presentations are meant to be questioned to be challenged, you mean to give a fletch, give your ideas on them ... are not just presented to be heard, to say that we heard that there's this and that, that is happening.

One of the presentation here is to say, we are far from changing the ratio of unemployment. And I think as young

people of this country we need to give our concern on that one, to say no, we can't be far, what are we doing to change the status quo? Is that you have done everything that we can do to change?

So, it's up to you to give us something to talk about when we go back to portfolios and I'm happy that the Speaker has answered the question to say as Parliament we have Women Caucus, why we don't have Youth Caucus, because we have many members who are young? And for the fact that today you said that we are going to establish that, then all your inputs will come to that caucus so that we'll make sure that the championed and they're changing the status quo on our of our country and our challenges that we are facing.

Represent the people that we are here to represent, be the voice of the voiceless, make sure that after today we have something to discuss about the young people and their challenges in the society. Thank you very much for this session. I will welcome.

SESSION 3: YOUTH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

**INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH - RESTRUCTURE THE ECONOMY,
ADDRESSING OLIGOPOLIES AND CONCENTRATION**

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Ms J S MANANISO and Ms J S PETERSEN

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Good morning hon members, colleagues, our guests today and the hon Minister. Now our session is an interesting one. We are dealing with civil organisations. All of us would know if you are an activist these people are the extension branch of lobbying and advocacy in terms of government issues. Be it on formulation, development and as well as implementation.

So, it is critical that we listen and gear up as young people. Most of the speakers, I have heard them they spoke about young people are the now, the present and the current. So, in our discussions we need to reflect that we are the now, the present and the current.

I want to now as well welcome my co-chairperson from the National Assembly and I am from the National Council of Provinces, NCOP. I am there as the chairperson and as well as the Whip of Gauteng. You can introduce yourself mam.

Ms J S PETERSEN (Co-chairperson of the session): Greetings hon members, Speaker, Minister, members of the executive, members of the public, our hon members of the day. I am Jasmine Peterson representing the PA. I am the youngest member in the National Assembly. Just before we start with the session I would like to say as young people we will continue to say that we have seen way too many dreams dry prematurely, we have seen

candles been blown out and we have seen how tables can be turned. We are the now, we are here, and we are certainly not asking for a seat at a table anymore. We are building our own. Thank you.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you co-chairperson. Let me just put a disclaimer. I am youth by height but not age. So, I do not want to be tik tokked that I am above 35 years, therefore. So, you would understand the state of the NCOP, you cannot question it. It is by the rules. I have been delegated to actually drive this process in terms of representing with issues.

As I said now, we are going to get a presentation from Ms E Setshwana the Deputy General Secretary of SA Youth Council.

I was asking one of their members to say: Does this youth council still exist? We will hear in terms of the presentation because we understand that they are playing oversight and accountability in terms of youth issues. Over to you, mam.

YOUTH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION:

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH - RESTRUCTURING THE ECONOMY,

ADDRESSING OLIGOPOLIES AND CONCENTRATION

Ms SETSHWANA CHABELI (Deputy General Secretary of the South African Youth Council): Thank you very much and let me correct this. My name was wrongly spelled, and I think it is unparliamentary.

My name is Setshwana Chabeli. Remember that name.

So, let me also borrow from the already established protocol in saying all protocol observed.

Greetings ladies and gentlemen, my fellow South Africans. I would programme director does not want to experience what was done to the good doctor. For I carry with me the strong voice, hopes and aspirations of young people that the statistician Mr Molai has already spoken about. If you cut me short, then it would mean that you disregard the youth of this country.

The SA Youth Council is going to give a strategic submission here and this is how we go about.

As in when I was listening to Ntate Molayi I was also ...

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Ms Chabeli, as a point of exigency, there is a clock on your left that actually guide you on how you need to conduct yourself.

Ms SETSHWANA CHABELI (Deputy General Secretary of the South African Youth Council): Alright. Thank you very much.

I am also aware that I was scheduled to start at 10 o'clock up until 18 minutes past 10.

South Africa's youth comprising nearly of 40,2% of the total population as per the Statistics SA, stand at a critical juncture marked by both unprecedented challenges and untapped potential. As the country takes the reigns of the G20 in 2025, it inherits a historic opportunity to elevate the youth perspective on a global platform.

However, the realities on the ground present a sobering view of high unemployment rate, widening inequality, limited access to mental health care and an environmental degradation mainly affecting young people.

The SA Youth Council as a national representative body of all youth formations submits its expanded strategic blueprint to offer clear measurable and evidenced-based recommendations to influence policy and implementation in our country. Our intension is not only to participate in the national discourse but to lead the generational transformation rooted in dignity urgency and equity.

Now, let us understand the current landscape which relates to youth unemployment and structural barriers. South Africa continues to face deepening youth unemployment crisis. According to Q1 2025 Quarterly Labour Force Survey, the unemployment rate among young people aged between 15 and 34 as Ntate Molayi has already said is rising at 46,1%. While the youth aged between 15 to 24 face even more devastating 62,4% unemployment rate. This does not really look good.

Notably 3,8 million young people are classified as not in education, not in employment, not in training and thus perpetuating cycles of poverty and exclusion. The problem is more severe in the township areas where structural barriers such as connectivity, transport, access to quality education persist. Here we talk of places such as the dusty streets of Mahlatswetsa Excelsior in the Free State where I come from.

Now let us look at the strategic objectives to reduce by 15% by the year 2030 through targeted sectors specifically structural interventions. Firstly, as an item of action we are saying let us establish a youth employment war room. The timeline we are setting is the third quarter of 2025; thus you can imagine this is very urgent. We are saying the lead actors in this role should be the Presidency, ourselves as the SA Youth Council and the National Youth Development Agency. We are saying the estimated resources to take on this task should

be a maximum of R15 million. The Key Performance Indicator, KPI, that we put on is that it should be operational by October 2025.

The second one is that we are saying let us have a labour market readiness campaign and start this in the Q4 of this year towards second quarter of 2026. We are saying let the Sector Education and Employment Authorities, Setas and the Department of Employment and Labour take responsibility.

We are also saying for it is nice when you put figures to the rose an estimation of R8 million would be needed so that we can reach 200 000 young people.

We are also saying, let us have a private, public employment compact by the first quarter of 2026. We are also saying let Business Unity SA, Busa, National Economic Development and Labour Council, Nedlac and SA Youth Council, SAYC, be responsible for this so that we can reach 100 000 internships.

Now, addressing the socioeconomic web affecting young people we are saying youth development is essentially tied to social detriment such as nutrition, household income and mental health.

In 2024, approximately 25% of youth lived in households with no employment of any adult in those households. Concurrently, South Africa saw a rising 15% year-in-on increase of youth related suicide rates. With over 70% of surveyed youth indicating moderate to severe mental health.

Now as we conclude - eish you are killing the voice of young people Chair, honestly. This is not impressive.

However, we are saying as we conclude, the strategic submission by the SA Youth Council under-scores the imperative for the whole of government and society collaboration in placing the youth at the centre of South Africa's development agenda. We are further saying the institutional reforms and accountability frameworks proposed here today are designed not only to address immediate challenges but to lay a foundation for a resilient, just and inclusive society where young people take a lead and solve their own problems and are given more time to present their issues. We call on Parliament, the executive, the provincial legislatures, the municipalities, business and civil society to adopt this strategic vision that we are going to share not just as a gesture but as a generational mandate. I thank you.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, Ms Chabeli. You actually gave us a mandate as Members of

Parliament in this House in terms of what is the thinking of psyche on ensuring that we have rapid response on issues of young people. I am happy that the Chair of Chairs in the House of the NA is here to take note that young people are saying that these matters must be addressed now.

So, as we leave here, you must exchange script on what needs to be done. Before I hand over to my co-chair, we will be dealing with issues of questions, comments and clarity on presentations that have been made. But I want to announce that this session is for members who are coming from youth formations, not Members of Parliament. The role of Members of Parliament in this session is to take note on issues they would take forward when they sit in their select committees and as well portfolio committees. This is very sound, right? This is the Youth Month, but that includes people who are outside doing groundwork. So, they are here to mandate us. It is very clear. We are sober, and we are very clear to take mandates. What is good that the speaker has alluded on this morning was the fact that public participation is a constitutional imperative. It is very important, and this process is part and parcel of public participation.

Now we are going to hand over to you as our guest and our VIPs for today in terms of taking the mandate to the P20. This is very relevant. P20 is not about local issues, Lucky, it's

about how do we make sure that we get to be included in terms of export and imports that will bring the economy up. So, I am handing over to my co-chair to note hands for clarity seeking questions and for comments in terms of what you could have heard from those we have presented before up until Sy.

Don't miss an opportunity as well to give these sectors mandate. You have heard the Financial and Fiscal Commission, FFC's, presentation. They must tell us what is it that they've been doing in terms of advising on policies of youth development so that we get the sense really everyone with a commissioner is doing their work as it when they have to do so when executing their work. Yes, we are agreeing on two rounds.

Ms J S PETERSEN (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you so much, co-chairperson. We will now take hands for clarity seeking questions. We are going to proceed in order. Number one will be the lady in the ... Yes, one, two, three, four - okay, we can take four questions from this side, and four from the other side, followed by answers. I am asking. Alright, we will take these four questions first and provide answers and then we'll take four more from the other side.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, co-chair. You lose this tender right now. It is four on this side, right? And please be on point in terms of what you want

clarity on so that we don't find ourselves all over the place. Over to you ma'am. When you speak, yes ... I like this Member of Parliament who said that when people speak, they should raise their names and surname as well their organisation so that we can be call you and give you your feedback, right - in terms of the outcome of this session. So, over to you ma'am.

QUESTION AND ANSWER INTERACTIVE SESSION

Ms N P DLAMINI (IFP - KwaZulu-Natal Legislature): Okay, thank you very much, hon Chairperson and greetings to the Chairperson for NCOP, the Deputy Chairperson and the hon members in this House. My name is hon N P Dlamini from the KwaZulu-Natal legislature, and I am representing the IFP. My questions to the National Planning Commission, NPC, is: How is the NPC making sure that young people are not just mentioned in the plan but are central to real, measurable solutions for youth unemployment, poverty and social exclusion especially in rural provinces. Thank you.

Ms NKOSIPHILE ZWANE (IFP - Gauteng): Greetings, all protocol observed, my name is Nkosingiphile Zwane. I am from Gauteng representing IFP. So, my question is based ... I don't know whether to make this a general question, especially after the statistics that we have received. But it's something that I have written down and with the given recent statistics, can

this meeting maybe make recommendations to the portfolio committee that they implement the 80/20 employment policy especially when it comes to employment opportunities for South Africans. By that we mean that 80% priority should be given to South African citizens and 20% to foreign nationals only for scarce skills because if we are looking at the current unemployment rate and we still do not prioritise South Africans with the available jobs then we are still not solving the problem. Thank you.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Okay. Thank you. To those on the virtual platform, we will take your raised hands immediately after we finish these two speakers. What do you say?

Mr STEPHENS THAPELO SEKOAKOA (Mpumalanga): Thank you very much Chair of the session. My name is Stephen Sekoakoa from Mpumalanga provincial legislature and a participant to this sitting. I had one concern regarding the allocation of the equitable share in particular because, as per the latter presentation, it states that youth unemployment is included as a factor in the allocation. So, what needs to be done in order to correct that as well so that there is a certain percentage when allocating the equitable share that includes the youth unemployment as a percentage to seek to address the

unemployment rate that we are having. Thank you very much, Chair.

Ms SIPHESIHLE NKOSI (South African Youth Council): Thank you Chair. I am Siphesihle Nkosi from the South African Youth Council. One of the points that I would like to raise is that Statistics SA mentioned that the majority of young people are employed in trade. So, I would like clarity on whether they are employed in trade, small, medium and micro-sized enterprises, SMMEs, are they business owners or are they in retail, are they driving the sector or playing other roles. Because from where we stand, we know that most young people are unemployed. We also know that the presentation made mention that the majority of young people are relying on grants, so if most of young people are in trade, where are they? Probably they are working in retail, in shops, or earning a minimum wage.

Can we just get clarity in terms of that, Chair? Secondly, the Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Chikunga - she is still here - made mention of youth desks and establishing them in all departments, including municipalities. We would like to know when are we going to intentionally establish these youth desks. I can imagine that from a tender age myself, we have been speaking about youth desks in municipalities, government departments.

Can you imagine who is driving the youth development strategy if young people are not involved in each of these departments - for example, in strategic planning sessions of departments and government - if young people were still talking about youth desks being established. Those were two of my concerns, Chair. Thank you very much.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, hon guest from Mpumalanga. We have noted that. For now, we are dealing with these four questions, right? As per our agreement, we will first take questions, followed by responses. We are trying to check who have raised their hands online. For now, we haven't received any indication, but it should come through shortly.

While we are waiting, I have noted that the first question was directed to the National Planning Commission, NPC. The second one was more of a recommendation - suggesting that we develop a policy that enforces an 80/20 employment ratio between locals and foreign nationals. So, that one we take as umphako [food for a journey] that we can deliberate on as legislatures. I have noted the question for Statistics SA as well in terms of your report on trades, vis-à-vis, what we know as the realities of our people.

Minister, I think the last question, which speaks about establishment of youth desk, is a grave reality. We don't even have a uniformed approach to youth desks. They are not even professionalised. Appointing a youth coordinator is just a matter of formality, done simply to tick a box. On this matter, we need your commitment and response in terms of the programme of action on when South Africa will have this particular youth development units or youth desk across the country. So, those were the questions we noted on the floor while we are still checking who is on the virtual line. You'll be noted as the Chair, I have indicated, and we will respond to the questions and then I will come back to you. Thank you. Can we have responses, as I indicated, we will deal with questions first, then responses, and after that, we'll come back to our leaders on this side.

Ms PHUMZILE CHIFUNYISE (Commissioner: National Planning Commission): I think I can take the questions that were fielded to the Monetary Policy Committee, MPC, with regards to how we are making sure that young people are not just mentioned in the National Development Plan, NDP. The first exercise we conducted as the MPC was in 2023, when we launched our 10-year review of the NDP. We noted that most of our economic indicators were heading in the wrong direction. We are really on a slow path with regards to meeting our gross domestic product, GDP, growth target of 5,4% and most

importantly, that priorities for the youth are quite mute in the NDP, and so, we are on a path of rethinking how we are going to use that baseline diagnostic to create a baseline for the is coming NDP post-2030. In the most immediate term is our advisory that we are carving out and part of that advisory we are saying that, firstly, we would like to see notable transition of youth into labour environment and not just creating job opportunities for them, and by that, we mean that there needs to be recognition of alternative income generating opportunities and multiple income-generating streams by young people. You would have noticed that young people are taking the lead in being digital nomads, where they are being employed by global organisations, especially in the digital space, while being anchored in South Africa. However, our labour policies are not being receptive to recognising some of these skills that they exercise, especially in digital platforms, as forms of experiences for future work, as well as future business income-generating opportunities. We need some sort of flexible labour policies to recognise multiple income-generating opportunities that young people are at the forefront of.

Secondly, our point of advice that we are developing within our advisory is to note that there needs to be uniformity and alignment across the three National Youth Policy, NYP, interventions, the Medium-Term Development Plan, as well as

the Integrated Youth Development Strategy, especially as some of these policies are lapsing. So, this is an opportunity for us to refine that alignment, and we can only do so through measurable targets and indicators, as some of the speakers have mentioned.

Lastly, on our advice is to say that within SMME growth and development targets, as we know that 90% of the jobs that have been indicated would be generated in 2030, are going to be coming from SMMEs. There needs to be targets that are linked to youth business owners with regards to that, and we are working on an advisory to reduce red tape for businesses, especially youth-owned businesses, both informal and formal markets, from a regulatory and legislative perspective, but also throughout financial business development support as well. And in all these, monitoring and evaluation needs to be driven by the public sector and the private sector, but also laid and anchored in The Presidency. Thank you.

Dr PATIENCE NOMBEKO MBAVA (Chairperson, Financial and Fiscal Commission): Chair, the question was about the equitable share and how responsive it is to the issues of youth unemployment. The evidence is there that the formula is not directly addressing the issues of youth unemployment. The formula essentially addresses the local government's equitable share and the provincial equitable share. They address service

delivery transfers to the provinces and local government. So, as we are now reviewing the White Paper on Local Government, I think those are the issues that we will have to look at as to whether we will review the formula, the components thereof, or assign additional grants to provinces for youth unemployment. Thank you so much, Chair.

Mr SOLLY MOLAYI (Statistics SA Acting Director General): Yes, if you look at the trade and double click, you will see that there are hotels, accommodation, and restaurants. So, we can provide the breakdown of these numbers to the colleagues. The other thing I want to add is that if you look at our economy, we just released the GDP numbers - it is growing at 0,1%. If you look at the trade itself in terms of the growth, it just grew by 0,5%. So, these are some of the challenges that we are putting on the table, and as policymakers, we need to think about how we are going to grow the economy so that the economy can be able to absorb a lot of youth. That will be my submission. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF YOUTH, WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Thank you for the question, maybe one thing that I said in my speech, firstly, is that as a department, we have managed to ensure that there are indicators and targets for youth, women and persons with disabilities in the Medium-Term Development Plan, which is important. We have said that we are

also going to ensure that there are indicators that will enable us to be able to monitor the implementation. So, that is what we will expect Members of Parliament, particularly the young ones, to ask those questions of whoever appears before them.

Secondly, on the issues of youth focal points, some of the departments at the national level do have, like in the Department of Transport, we have a unit that is called gender, disability, youth and children, GDYC. However, they are at a lower level. They therefore report to a director who is in human resources, who sometimes may not even take these things seriously. Our motivation as a department is that these people must be elevated in terms of levels so that they report to directors-general, DGs, and are invited to Minister executive meetings so that their views can be raised at that level. We have set this as our target for this year - it is in our annual performance plan, APP, as a department. Thank you very much.

Ms THANDO LUKHELE (President of the SRC: University of Cape Town): I would like to greet the Chairpersons of the session, the Ministers, and all hon members present today. Most importantly, I would like to greet the young people who are present in today's Youth Parliament. My starting point would be an expression or commentary on my disappointment in the

running of the session. Firstly, I believe if we are going to have an engagement session, especially where we are discussing recommendations on behalf of young people, we are discussing statistics on behalf of young people, the best thing we can do is share all those documents before this engagement so that every single person who comes into these engagements comes prepared in mind as to what are we going to discuss, how we are going to discuss it, and how these sessions are going to be run. So, I am quite disappointed in how the entire session has been run, especially because I got an invite two days ago. I am assuming some of the young people got one earlier, but I really am disappointed in how the session is run. Moreover, for me, it looks like a box-ticking process to say we did it, but it does not look like there is an attempt to have meaningful engagement. But to move to my questions, the first set of questions I have with regards to the MPC about the plan, especially tapping into the conversation of artificial intelligence and having access to that, I feel like the entire session has not properly diagnosed the issues within our country or the country's context. Firstly, we have a big digital divide. The majority of our young people do not have access to the Internet, and before we speak about access, people in rural areas do not even have access to basic Internet, before we speak about data, data rates, and cell phones. Speaking on artificial intelligence, we would most likely speak to the middle class and high-income classes, who

already either have access to information technology, IT, or Computer Applications Technology, CAT, in their high schools, of which only 5% of the schools have been provided with nationwide. With that being said, here follow my first question: Have we properly diagnosed the problem, if we give people access to IT and information communication technology, ICT, and artificial intelligence, AI, who are we giving access to that, and how are we going to solve the question of digital divide in our country? Moreover, my follow-up question would be to the entire Parliament at large, whether we are properly diagnosing the manners or the issues within our country? Firstly, the biggest problem with mapping skills or rather with young people finding employment before we even create jobs, is that they do not have proper access to education. As much as we have a huge 98% based on the statistics that were provided here, 98% of young people are attending primary school, but there is a significant gap in high school and tertiary level. Is it the money that contributes to that? Is it poverty? How far are the schools that the young people are supposed to be attending? How are they accessing their home affairs? How are they accessing their high schools? Where are the high schools? For a young person who is in a rural area who must walk an hour to get to school, how are we expecting that person to have enough energy to get to school to continue with their studies, moreover, even going to tertiary level? Now, continuing the conversation on the digital divide, to

access the tertiary level, you must apply for bursaries, and you must apply for universities online. So, already there is limited access to universities, there is limited access to the State Information Technology Agency, Sita, and there is limited access to the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA. So, with that limited access, we are still not speaking to the relevant people. We are speaking to people who have data. In this meeting today, you invited us who have Internet access, Wi-Fi, who are in universities, who are most likely, maybe we might find ourselves having employment. So, I do think this discussion is limiting itself in the sense that it is not properly diagnosing the context in which we have an economic crisis and why young people are not having employment. Overall, I feel like it is just a very big box-ticking process in the sense that we were not provided with PowerPoint presentations before coming here and have meaningful and informed engagements. But also, I do not think we have properly diagnosed the context in which we are discussing all these issues. Thank you very much.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-Chairperson of the session): Thank you, Thando, and we are noting the clapping of hands. It is Youth Month. We are acknowledging that there's that spirit of saying that there is some challenge in terms of documentation that was supposed to be sent prior, I fully agree with that one. We have noted the issues of accessibility. As Members of

Parliament, we know these realities. Most of us live in the townships, and these are the issues that we normally advocate for, Minister, that we cannot be speaking about issues of accessibility while we only speak with a few in terms of things that we would want to do. So, we are noting those issues and Members of Parliament that are here have noted your input. And I want to say to you, in terms of this session, Members of Parliament who are representing specific parties, it is their responsibility that when they are giving information on WhatsApp, they can immediately share it. So, I am just indicating to you so that the next speakers who would be coming as delegates, they must know that everything has been processed via WhatsApp, so that we become flexible as young people and share information as we get it. However, we have noted the issues that you have raised. Now we go to ...

[Interjections.]

Ms M DLAMINI: On a point of order.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-Chairperson of the session): Is it a point of order, and on which Rule?

Ms M DLAMINI: Chair, it is not a point of order. I just want to say that the previous speaker did not say her name or the organisation she comes from, and we would like her to come back so that we know who was presenting. Thank you very much.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-Chairperson of the session): The order is not sustained, firstly, on the basis that it was not an order on any standing

Ms M DLAMINI: Chair, it was a point of privilege.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-Chairperson of the session): Order not sustained as it was not an order. We can go to our next speaker, Mike Da Silva.

Mr MIKE DA SILVA (City of Ekurhuleni): Greetings to everyone. My name is Mike da Silva; I am from the City of Ekurhuleni. I have three siblings of working age, and two of whom are unemployed, even though they have degrees and ample qualifications. It should not be a unique situation because we live in a country with a youth unemployment rate, as we have learnt, of nearly 70% if you look at the expanded figures. So, if my siblings who have had the privilege of a two-parent household, good education, and a strong community network are struggling to find work, imagine the devastating hopelessness of less fortunate individuals? As it stands, there are young people today who are living off the Sassa pension given to their parents because they cannot take care of themselves and that, if you think about it is wrong because when you grow up you are meant to be the one who your parents rely on in their old age. So, if we cast ourselves into the future in 30 years,

the unemployed young people today will be approaching retirement age and there will be an entire generation that is once again dependent on the care of the state, while the next generation is going to also remain sitting on corners, remaining unemployed and inequality will still exist and that would make things possibly worse. With all of that in mind, we also need to take into context that reforming the economy is not going to be such an easy task when you consider the rise of AI and the impending shift that is going to have on the world of work. So, my question then becomes: What is being done to ensure that there is an efficient and corruption-free government, which is not creating barriers to new businesses, which will then improve entrepreneurship? What is being done to improve flexibility in the labour markets to give young people access to jobs for the first time? What is being done to prepare current and future generations for the seismic shift that AI is going to have on the world of work? What is being done to integrate the use of AI into government? I feel that AI should not be viewed as a threat, it should be viewed as an opportunity, but we do need to look at revising things in the NDP to make sure that we accommodate it and prepare future generations for its presence in the workplace because it is not something that is going to be stoppable, it is something that we need to work towards addressing now. Thank you.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-Chairperson of the session): To members who would be coming after Councillor Mohlala, please note that the preamble is consuming much time in terms of questions and responses in this session. So, we have noted your question, and I think it is for the MPC. It is important as well for members to indicate to whom your question is directed, because you cannot be what ... we have an operation that one has outlined as a co-Chair, that this is how we need to do our question-and-answer session. We still have two more to go on virtually before we come this side. So, immediately after four from this side will go on the other side. Hon Shikwambana.

Mr M SHIKWAMBANA: Chair, I think it is your responsibility as a Chair to remind members on the virtual platform before they speak, to introduce themselves so that we can know them. Again, I think you need to give hon Petersen a chance to chair because you are drowning her.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-Chairperson of the session): Divide and rule, we know you, you specialise in that. As we continue, let us call Councillor Mohlala on the platform. Your question, please.

Cllr CHRISTOPHER MOHLALA (Johannesburg): Good morning, hon members, my name is Christopher Mohlala, I am a councillor in the City of Johannesburg. However, I only have a few comments

to make that will result in questions. Firstly, our educational system, from early childhood development, ECD, to high school, does not prepare young people for today's world. Today, we live in the 4th Industrial Revolution, yet we have so many people who still fail to use a basic computer, yet we complain that young people are unemployable. Again, as a government, we stabbed ourselves in the back by doing away with the in-service training. Back in the days, as soon as young people graduate from high school, they would be given an opportunity to do in-service training like the military, police, nursing and stuff. We also had colleges where we will take young people. And again, the last one will be ... we also must bring ... [Interjections.] ...

A DELEGATE: ... but sometimes even when we become harsh on officials, they will always find a way of sabotaging [Interjections.] ...

Cllr CHRISTOPHER MOHLALA (Johannesburg): Chair, can I please be protected ... [Interjections.]

A DELEGATE: ... we just need to work with them ... [Interjections.] ...

Ms J S PETERSEN (Co-Chairperson of the session): Councillor Simon, please mute your mic.

Cllr CHRISTOPHER MOHLALA (Johannesburg): Thank you, Chair. The last one will be that we must also bring back artisan skills training colleges, fully funded by the government, to have skilful young people who will be able to participate in the economy, especially in the artisan sector. Thank you very much.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Councillor, thank you. We have noted your question/comments, that us as hon members ... we'll take note of them as we engage portfolio committees and select committees.

Dunjana, we don't know whether you are Ms or Mr. Over to you!

Cllr XOLANI THULANI DUNJANA (Group Community and Social Services Portfolio, GCYPD, Committee- Ekurhuleni): Chair, my name is Thulani Xolani Dunjana, I'm a member of Group Community and Social Services Portfolio, GCYPD, Committee in the City of Ekurhuleni. I am actually a councillor. Firstly, we appreciate the report, all the work that has been done by the committee in terms of compiling the report.

But first, I want to express my disappointment because I've heard very minimum on people living with disabilities from the report. According to the statistics report of 2022, about 15% of the country's population are people living with disabilities.

Now, the problem that we are currently having is that, firstly, and I think maybe the people responsible for planning will respond that, the environment or rather the buildings and government infrastructure is not conducive for people living with disabilities. So, it then becomes a problem to access these opportunities that they are referring to. That's the first thing that I want to note.

Secondly, according to the report about 16,7 million young people in South Africa are not actively participating in the economy and that happens because of the issue of foreigners. And I think the report is also not clear on the percentage of opportunities that have been taken by foreigners.

The last question and ... I think the statement that I want to make to the committee of planning is that in all spheres of government we have what is called youth directorates, but then the problem with these youth directorates is that they are not independent.

We need to establish unconventional and self-sustaining youth directorates in all spheres of government. Because the problem with the current arrangement or the current youth directorate is that they do not have the authority to fund their own programmes, they depend a lot on departments. And many departments when they come and give us a report, they don't

assist the youth directorates in terms of giving them sufficient resources. And I think I am raising this to the planning committee because they raised the issue of the White Paper on Local Government.

I am saying that we need to make sure that these structures are independent and these structures are self-sufficient and are able to control themselves, because it is only young people that can solve their problems. It does not make sense to give all the powers to departments and establish directorates that do not have any authority at all. Thanks, Chair.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, Mr Dunjana. We would now handover to the department for responses. Most of the questions were for the National Planning Commission, NPC, in terms of planning and ... as well as statistics, Financial and Fiscal Commission, FFC, vis-à-vis those who are immigrants and employed and what ... and then the issue of the report not speaking on realities in terms of what are the issues that impede to people going to school up to certain levels.

But, as I said, on other issues raised by councillor from City of Johannesburg, it was inputs in terms of how best we can interact as Members of Parliament, in terms of dealing with

other matters. And then ... that's ... Statistics SA, just clarify on issues that you have raised and as well as the FFC.

Ms PHUMZILE CHIFUNYISE (Commissioner: National Planning Commission)): Chair, I think we can go first and thanks for all the questions. We'll answer two parts: firstly, with regard to the point that was made about recommendations without really assessing the realities of the country. And I think we would like to agree with the fact that the digital divide that has got a ripple effect on not just young people with regard to how this enables young people to look for things such as job opportunities, to apply for business and financial services.

But it also has a ripple effect in terms of how young people access education as well, as we have seen especially coming from this particular province, that some high schools are also online as well. So, we wholeheartedly recognise the fact that there is a high digital divide and that it has a ripple effect on how young people are able to access opportunities.

Which is why we as the NPC are actually in the process of rolling out diagnostic to understand the current context and the baseline of digital infrastructure roll-out in the country, looking at provinces, municipalities, townships and rural areas. This is all in order to understand what exactly

our needs are from a digital infrastructure perspective. What does it look like? Who needs what type of access to digital infrastructure as well as access to connectivity across the country? This will enable us to be able to map out a process and as well as resource and budgeting as to where we need to put in the most amount of resources to enable this ... and to close the digital divide.

I also think we noted the point that was made about the independence of youth directorates, and I think this forms part of our call to recommendation that was made during our 10-year review, to say that there needs to be an intergovernmental coordination that is youth-led.

I think the second part of the question with regard to integrating artificial intelligence, AI, into the National Development Plan, NDP, my colleague can come in and answer that.

Dr MORNE MOSTERT (Commissioner: National Planning Commission):
Madam Chair, thank you to my fellow commissioner. AI can be thought of in relation to young people in two ways: one, in terms of service to young people and, another, in terms of service from young people.

So, on the dimension on service to young people and indeed the broader society, AI offers enormous opportunities, great opportunities for delivery expansion by government.

On the dimension of what young people bring to the table in relation to AI, the picture is significantly more complex. And we should bear in mind that the National Planning Commission is concerned with longer term planning. We are curious about the longer-term outlook for younger people. And the implications are really significant.

When we look at international research such as that by Bloomberg, the World Economic Forum, AI is likely to have a very dramatic impact, particularly on entry level jobs.

So, if we are trying to accelerate youth employment, this is significant for us. Therefore, the urgency has never been greater than it is right now. There is, therefore, on our part, sympathy for the sense of urgency among many young people.

This plays out particularly in recognition of the South African demographic dividend, which evaluates the percentage of those of employable age versus those outside that bracket.

In terms of that longer term outlook, we have missed, already, as a country, most of the demographic dividend opportunity and most of that opportunity will utterly expire by the early 2040s.

We will, therefore, advise on the development of a future development plan. The extreme urgency for the development of competencies, not only in digital competence, but particularly in AI and a direct investment in talent in that specific area in order to avoid some of the risks as our demographic dividend declines. Thank you, Chair.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, NPC and we hope that we'll get submissions after these deliberations so that we can share with the delegates who are part of these discussions. I will hand over to my Co-Chair in terms of taking responses from the department.

Dr PATIENCE NOMBEKO MBAVA (Chairperson, Financial and Fiscal Commission): Chair, I think as the commission, what we recommend is shifting the focus from just purely educational attainment, that is just strictly that, towards practical on the job training opportunities.

We believe that as a commission there's scope to absorb unemployed youth into entry level positions that involve

routine tasks, allowing skills development through the actual doing of the work.

So, we must redirect, therefore, fiscal policy to bolster labour demand according to the structure of our industries.

Government, therefore, should create incentives for businesses to employ young workers into entry level jobs and these jobs should not be conditional on educational attainment rather, but these jobs should be based on the skills that are required to do the work.

And we must also incentivise Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises, SMMEs, as well, to create internships and vacation placements through subsidies. Those are our recommendations.

Mr SOLLAY MOLAYI (Statistics SA Acting Director General):

Chair, I think maybe let's start with the point that was raised by a colleague on the virtual platform, the issue around disability. I think we are already engaging with the department to say ... as a country we really need to have a dedicated survey that zoom in to challenges that persons living with disabilities or persons with disabilities are actually experiencing and we are hoping that we will be able to come up with that survey and we are able to provide insight in terms of the challenges that they are facing.

So, the current report as already been mentioned, it doesn't reflect that part, but we do have the results that we can share with the members here.

The issue around ... and I just want us to be careful in terms of how we are raising this one. We are having the Department of Home Affairs, which is issuing work permits, so, we can be able to get data from Home Affairs to say how many foreigners who are working in South Africa in terms of the work permits.

The challenges that we are having is undocumented foreigners, which is a big challenge for us to actually even measure it because you can imagine that we don't have a database that we can actually, as statisticians, be able to measure.

So, what we have done as a national statistical agency is that we are trying to work with the departments, working with SA Police Service, SAPS, as they are catching them through the crime system, working with the Department of Health, also working with other entities, because it will give us a sense of the scope of or the number of undocumented foreigners. And I think that will help us a lot as a country to have a sense of estimation, rather than estimating the numbers that I've been hearing in the media in terms of undocumented.

So, that is still a challenge for us as a country and I think as a national statistical agency, we are already starting to work with different departments within the national statistical system, also including the key partners outside the government because they also have a database that we can actually mine. Thank you so much.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSON WITH DISSABILITIES:

Chair, I think on the issue of disability, he has responded to the question, but maybe to also mention that as we are chairing the G20 and being the President of the G20, as South Africa we are establishing the disability inclusion initiative. Which if United States, US, will take over from us, of course, it will have been initiated by South Africa. By so doing, we are elevating issues of disability to the level of Ministers of G20.

But also, we are identifying legacy projects. One of them is actually having a nerve centre for disability, where all the information about disability will be deposited so that we have a better understanding of the extent of disability in South Africa, but what they have and what they do not have and where they are.

I think in that way we are trying to elevate the matter and that is why in my speech I even said that, if possible,

Parliament should consider bringing back a disability Parliament. It was also in our speech which is possible that it can be done during the Disability Rights Awareness Month, DRAM, from 03 November to 03 December.

So, yes, indeed, issues of disability we are elevating them. They are also in the Medium-Term Development Plan, MTDP. There are also among the issues that we are taking up with all departments.

In fact, we have just released a report on departments, even when I was answering questions here in the House, of departments that are meeting the target of employment equity target of 4% now. So, yes, indeed, we are elevating the issues.

On the issue of corruption, my take, I wish ... because in this room we have got a number of young people who can actually give solutions to problems. Maybe for them asking questions, they should actually give us solutions to some of the problems so that we listen to what they are thinking. When you give them the opportunity, like the gentleman at the back there, they give us all the answers to some of the problems, because I think we all now know the challenges. Thank you very much.

Ms J S PETERSEN (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, hon Minister. We will now take four hands from the floor...

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): We are this side, colleagues ... [Interjections.] ... No, we haven't forgotten you. You are part of this package, relax. No, no, no, relax. Order! Can we have four hands from this side. I want to suppress those who are coming from legislatures and councillors. When you are a councillor and when you are the member of the provincial legislature, MPL, you are part and parcel of legislatures. Therefore, issues that you are asking here it's issues that you need to give solutions on.

Therefore, I want to take note of organisations and formations that are not within our sectors. As MPLs just take note that it is umphako [food for the journey] you would execute at the legislature. I said four neh! Remember, we took four this side, it's going to be four, then we go back that side and take four, the last four and the last four neh.

We have 19 minutes to finish this particular session. It's you, number one and then the SA Youth Council, SAYC, number two. It will be the young man and SAYC and then I want to balance gender for now. It will be the lady with white coat. Okay, then let me take as well the very, very young person there, it's four. The University of the Western Cape, UWC,

will come on the next round, I have noted you. Others that I have noted next to Zaza, you will come on the next sets of questions. We only have 18 minutes, no preambles, go straight to the question. As well, we have noted that we have three people on virtual that have raised their hands before we get to you, hon one, we will deal with the others. Over to you.

Mr ATLEGANG LEKABE: Thank you so much. Greetings to the Speaker in absentia, co-chairs, hon members, members of the executive and fellow youth parliamentarians and fellow South Africans back at home. My question to the Minister is considering the high rates of unemployment in South Africa, what specific policy interventions do you propose to address this challenge and ensure that young people are equipped with the skills and opportunities needed to contribute to the country's economic growth and development?

The issue of vocational education, why is it not focused on because I mean that speaks to the immediate challenges that we are faced with? I think also with the rising challenges that we are faced with as young people, I would like to propose that there should be a quarterly Youth Parliament sitting because our issues as young people we are faced with them every day, we are not only faced with them on Youth Month. I think that this should be something that we take forward

moving because South Africa's success is the global south success. Thank you.

Mr BEN MKHABELE (South African Youth Council in Gauteng):

Thank you, hon Chair of the session. My name is Ben Mkhabele, I am from the Youth Council in Gauteng. My questions are directed to the National Planning Commission, NPC, Stats SA and to the Members of Parliament. My first stats as I heard that economic growth is at 0,1%. Is it perhaps that the youth job seekers are the ones that add to this 0,1% through the job seekers market by contributing to overpriced data, transporting themselves to interviews where they will be rejected and sustaining a dying industry of printing curriculum vitae, CVs, where they get rejected or their CVs pile up the rubbish bins.

I am saying this because these statistics are not consistent. The President, in his state of the nation address, said that it is 70% youth unemployment. Today we hear of a reduction, but we don't see where the reduction came from or maybe there was load shedding and then when the number came back it came back with a different number. Therefore, we are saying this because the statistics are actually at the cornerstone of our problem. We had a chief executive officer, CEO, of a certain company that owns a bank saying that the actual unemployment rate is 10%. I don't know if he was looking into our

individual bank accounts and checking e-wallets and all those things that maybe they qualify for unemployment.

However, I believe that there is a synergy between his assertion and the assertion of the Statistician-General.

Therefore, perhaps to alleviate the needs, maybe let's employ 9 million needs, give them capacity to go there to look for proper stats that will greatly impact the unemployment that we are seeing. That is question number one.

Question number 2 to the advisory. I'm very concerned about what you are advising because in all that we have heard, you have never reviewed, you are saying that it's 2025, we have a National Youth Policy that was signed in 2020, that is running up until 2030, signed by the President. Therefore, if you are saying that these policies are coming to an end and nothing is happening, we have been reviewing them on an annual basis, and we are seeing that there is progress in the current form of the policy. Is it fair for me to ask you why haven't you advised the President that instead of signing policies and all these strategies that are unfunded, how about you go to Parliament and ask them to make an Act that will give this House powers to be able to legislatively trace youth development because now we are just talking on handshakes, youth policy is a handshake. If they don't do it, there's no

repercussions. The best we can do is maybe hoping that we can trend of TikTok.

However, on the issue of while we are on the plenary, we also want to ask that one of the key recommendations the Sector Education and Training Authorities, Setas, have been doing a good job in alleviating the unemployed market, as well as assisting the assertion of the Stats SA saying that experience gives you a better chance in the job market. The skills levy has been 1% since the year 2000. The advisory did not see a need to advise whoever they are advising that at least let's have the levy become 2% so that we can increase the pool of the work that we need to do.

I don't want to exhaust the powers that we have, but I am comforted by the previous chair saying that there is going to be a youth caucus. I'm appealing to young members of this Parliament that can we sit together, we understand the gains that we have done with the National Youth Development Agency Act. That is a beautiful Act, and we have a Ministry of Youth. That's nice. Can we have an overarching Act, a youth Act that's going to investigate all these issues, incorporate the policy so that we can trace these people and bring them to book? Thank you.

Ms ZANDILE SIZANI (Congress of South African Trade Unions, Cosatu): All protocol is observed. I'm Zandile Sizani from Congress of South African Trade Unions, Cosatu, young workers. My question is in terms of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, Stem, education. Why isn't government looking into Stem education in terms of diagnosing why most learners are not going into Stem subjects and the challenges that are there in Stem subjects? What is government doing in terms of analysing what can be done to improve Stem subjects because Stem subjects are causing the scarce skills in the country so not a lot of money is pumped into Stem subjects?

The second question is in terms of learners with learning barriers. Learners with learning barriers - there are not many practical courses for them and that is what is causing the high unemployment rate, because learners that have barriers drop out of school, become part of the statistics of learners who are unemployed, not in school, not in training and not doing anything. We are neglecting those learners that have barriers and because we are neglecting those learners that have barriers that is what is causing most of them to go into drugs and crime and other negative aspects within society. Therefore, we don't have that.

We need to have more practical courses that will cater for learners that have learning barriers. Another recommendation

that I have is that we are having a very few numbers of people that are educational psychologists, and we do need more educational psychologists. We've got a very low number of them. Therefore, because we've got an extremely low number of educational psychologists within the country, we don't have access to them in terms of accessing learners that are having these learning barriers because if these learners are not being assessed, there are no interventions in place. What happens to them, they just get lost in the system, they are progressed, they are adjusted, they are condoned, and they get to high school, they become frustrated, and they drop out ... [Interjections.]

Ms J S PETERSEN (Co-chairperson of the session): Can the staff members please mute Councillor Simon.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Remove him.

Ms ZANDILE SIZANI (Congress of South African Trade Unions, Cosatu): So ... okay. So, because they are not assessed, there's no intervention in place. They get lost within society. Can government also have funds for young people who want to become educational psychologists to assist the challenge of youth unemployment? Thank you.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, Mama Sizani, the worker. We have noted that most of your issues were comments to say that we must do best in terms of one, two, three. Over to you, we only have nine minutes left to go this side and come this side. Over to you, dear.

Mr MATOTI BUTHELEZI (National Executive Economic Collective): Thank you so much, Chairperson. Greetings to hon members and fellow delegates and greetings to the South African Youth Council. It's my first time to be here. My question, the first one at least is to you. My name is Matoti Buthelezi from the National Executive Economic Collective, the largest advisory and development firm for the economic inclusion of young people. We gather under the banner of economic participation. However, it would be a disservice to sit here and not demand accountability from those who claim to represent us and lead us.

To the South African Youth Council, whilst there's no scorecard on where young people can see what SAYC has achieved each year and what it has failed to achieve and where your democratic process is. How are you elected? When did you last open nominations to the broader youth of this country, particularly to rural, urban, unemployed, disabled and excluded? Therefore, if your leadership is not elected by the people, then it is not representative of the people.

I'm moving on now to another question on how the government has repeatedly committed to multisectoral integrated approaches that brings together departments like Basic Education, Higher Education and Training, Employment and Labour, Small Business Development, Trade, Industry and Competition, Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and others. Yet, to date we don't have functioning co-ordinated systems that align with youth programmes, budgets and implementation across these departments. We continue to see duplicated efforts, fragmented funding, silo programmes and no shared accountability for youth outcomes.

Therefore, the question then becomes perhaps to the Minister, why has government failed to implement a fully functional multisectoral integrated development system despite years of policy and strategic commitments? What is the actual bottleneck, is a political will or departmental tariff battles? Thank you so much.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, younger, younger. They rock younger, younger, they rock. We would then get responses from Stats SA, the Minister and as well the NPC. However, with the issues that have been raised by SAYC, most of your questions were actually advising, let's do one, two, three ... [Interjections.] ... No, SAYC must respond. I'm saying that number two is SAYC. The number two

SAYC were comments and recommendations. SAYC will respond on the issue of nominations and as well when last did they do what they had to do as asked.

Zaza, we are noting your issue of the Stem. It is unfortunate members are here just to come and take umphako [food for the journey] like hon Khakhau and those who are sitting on the Portfolio Committee of Science, Innovation and Technology. They were going to share with you what are the programmes that we are starting to do in terms of mainstreaming science, innovation and technology from the grassroots level. We have noted your issues of persons with disabilities as well to say that they need to be integrated from the early childhood development, ECD, level so that we get attention and make use of these psychologists who are not placed on unemployed.

Therefore, we have noted. You are giving us umphako [food for the journey] to say that there is a response in terms of dealing with those who have mental healthiness in schools being assisted by psychologists. We have taken those issues as comments. I am giving to Stats SA ... [Interjections.] ...

Sir, we will note you. I'm giving Stats SA to respond on the issue of disparities as noted in terms of your statistics that you have been given to this particular House.

However, I want all of us to note that most of the deliberations is a matter of why we are not doing this what we are supposed to be doing in terms of promoting a responsive educational system that will deal with the issues of employment opportunities. Hon Govender, as the Deputy Chair, I hope you are noting that young people feel that there is still a gap in terms of our educational system and what we want to respond to a skills scarcity in our country.

I am giving you just to respond and then we will then go to our virtual platform where we have three hands. We have three hands from the virtual platform, and we didn't forget you and we know that you have a mandate, and you'll give us don't worry. Over to you, Stats SA and the Minister.

Mr SOLLAY MOLAYI (Statistics SA Acting Director General): Co-chairperson, just a quick one, yes, indeed the numbers that the President presented during the state of the nation address ... remember that we collect this information on a quarterly basis and the President presented them on 6 February, referring to 2024, and the presentation that I did today was on the latest quarter of 2025. I just wanted to make sure that colleagues are aware. So, in each quarter there will be different numbers depending on how the economy and our labour market perform.

On the issue that you pointed out around the unemployment rate seating at 10%, I think we have dealt with it through the SG that, if you think about it logically and you take the 10% and apply it to the population or the labour force market which is around 25 million, it would mean that unemployment rate in South Africa is 2,5 million. I don't think all of us sitting here can believe that it could be 2,5 million. So, we have already dealt with that issue, and we will engage with the CEO outside this engagement.

The other thing that I also want to assure ... I think that is a question that you also raised that we should employ more youth to go and collect data. Indeed, at the national statistical agency, that is the drive that we are using. If you look at the percentage of field workers who help us collect data for census, majority of them were youth. I think that is the strategy that we are deploying also from our side to say moving forward we need to make sure that we use our youth to collect this data and assist us to make sure that we can achieve. Co-chair, I submit from my side. Thanks.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:

Thank you for the questions. On the issue of youth empowerment and policies or legislations we are being guided by the National Development Plan which is not a policy but a guide to

all departments in South Africa on national policies and legislative development.

We also have our National Youth Policy that we are implementing as a department and as government. There are quite a number of other employment initiatives that I referred to in my speech this morning. As a department we are also processing the SA Youth Development Bill that make provision for the establishment of youth units, their funding, functions and ensure quality services for youth. That Bill will come to Parliament. It will aim to ensure that all initiatives that aim to empower young people are consolidated. We are also aware of the Public Procurement Act that set aside 30% for youth of all public procurement in South Africa.

On the issue of vocational training, indeed this is one type of training that has historical challenges. However, there is a significant and deliberate shift that is now happening in South Africa towards vocational training. That is why government, particularly the Department of Higher Education and Training, is now explicitly prioritising Technical and Vocational Education and Training, TVET, colleges, even the President, in his state of the nation address, did raise the issue of South Africa producing more artisans and ensuring that we have young people that are equipped for the economy

and have the skills that meet the demands of the economy. So, yes, we are prioritising vocational training.

I think those were the questions. Thank you very much. If I have missed one, I apologise. Thank you.

Ms SETSHWANA CHABELI (Deputy General Secretary of the South African Youth Council): I am not sure which province you are from, my dear brother, but South African Youth Council, SAYC, is an apex body of all youth formations in South Africa. It has existed since 1997 and to date it still exists. Our last conference was in 2019, and we are heading to the next one in the coming months.

In terms of the scorecard of our work, despite our budgetary constraints, because we do not really have funds, our collaborative efforts will find resonance with a lot of member organisations that we work with and government departments that we work with to execute a lot of developmental programmes for young people in South Africa.

I would also urge you that in a province where you are from, which I will later get details, you associate with SAYC through the organisation that you are from because in every region, ward and province there is a structure of the SA Youth Council.

We are currently rigorously resuscitating the structures of the SA Youth Council. Hence in my closing remarks I said that this is not just the work that we are loosely calling for. We are saying that all the municipalities, the civil society, the legislature and Parliament itself must partner with SAYC so that some of the initiatives and programmes of youth development that we have in place find resonance in the programme of action of the government of South Africa. Thank you.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you members for responding to these issues. As I said earlier on, your submissions will be of need, if you can write them so that we can share with those who have asked these questions.

I am now going to the virtual platform. We have Katlego Sehole. I hope Katlego Sehole is not a hon member or a councillor. As I said, we will omit Councillor S Tsiane. The Councillor must listen and take mandate from the House on what are the issues of young people.

Ms Prudence Mabasa will be next. I hope Ms Prudence Mabasa is also not a member of any legislative sphere. Over to you, Katlego Sehole, no preambles.

We are moving on to Ms Prudence Mabasa on the virtual platform. Over to you.

Ms PRUDENCE MABASA: Greetings, fellow members and hon members, protocol observed. I am sorry, my network is not doing the things. So, I will be having a still that is put in place. So, kindly take that as my submission as well.

My question speaks to the sustainability of career pathways of young people. We currently see short-term contracts, particularly under the initiatives like the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention, PYEI, that may temporarily keep youth from the poverty line but not necessarily lift them from poverty. How can we reimagine and redesign the education assistance programme to provide clear long-term career pathways, particularly in sectors like the tech and AI where schools currently lack skilled educators? How do we bridge the gap of skills and create a pipeline from their assistance into permanent future ready education careers that we can all work with and end poverty for all? I submit. Thank you.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Minister and the chair, you must assist in terms of responding to how can we bridge the gap on questions raised. Also, Members of Parliament who are here, you can contribute towards these discussions because it was not directed to a specific

institution that presented in the morning. Over to you, hon member.

Mr NDIPIWE OLAYI (Federal Leader of the DA Youth): Co-chair, you have been supressing me this morning but thank you for recognising me. My name is Ndiphiwe Olayi. I am the federal leader of the DA youth. Firstly, co-chairperson, you need to consider sharing space with your co-chair next to you, but also your inputs ...

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): You are wasting time now. Make a U-turn and speak.

Mr NDIPIWE OLAYI (Federal Leader of the DA Youth): I am speaking. Statistics SA and to the colleagues of Statistics SA, with regards to census, when you look at the equitable share and Data and Observation Repository for Africa, DORA, itself, particularly when it comes to local governments, it informs how our budget ...

Ms M DLAMINI: Chair, on a point of order?

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Switch off your mic. I am giving to the hon member with the point of order.

Ms M DLAMINI: Chair, I am hon Dlamini. I thought you said counsellors must not speak but take notes, but the fellow colleague speaking now is a counsellor. So, I am not sure if the rules changed?

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, hon Dlamini, for that swift exigency. You have assisted us. Counsellor, you are not going to speak ... [Interjections.]

Mr NDIPIWE OLAYI (Federal Leader of the DA Youth):
Chairperson, I am here representing the organisation, not in my capacity as an MMC.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): No, no, no ... [Interjections.] ... Thank you, hon Dlamini. That was a serious intervention. Counsellor, we understand it is Youth Month, but you cannot shift as it suits you. You are here as the legislature, and you are participating here as the legislature. We are here as a collective from different spheres.

I think I have indicated that those who are serving in different spheres or levels of the legislature must take note of what is being raised here as a discourse. So, thank you, hon Dlamini. I am not going to do that thing of federal and

whatnot, we have noted that you are an MMC and you must respond to issues ... [Interjections.]

Hon members, I am not sure if this is how you behave in your House as an MMC. When an order has been sustained, you must just accept the decision of the chair. I am here with my co-chair to manage and control this session. You just need to understand that we have powers of privileges vested in us to ensure that we control this session. [Interjections.]

Is that a point of order?

Mr JOHAYNE CLOETE (NCC): Hon chair, I am a youth league representative. I just want to remind hon members that we have school learners here and they are not happy with the way that you are acting. You are no longer children; you are grownups. Who must they look up to if you act like this? Thank you ...

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): He is a young person raising a view of dissatisfaction in terms of our conduct as hon members. Hon member, as I am noting your input that you need us to behave in a certain manner, please note that your message is very wrong. We have been taking hands and people who want to speak are allowed to raise their hands unless you are a class rep or something, I am not sure.

Is it a point of exigency, hon Khakhau? Over to you.

Ms K L KHAKHAU: Co-chairperson Mananiso, I am just raising a procedural problem. As a steering committee member, you would note that the agreement of this steering committee was that each and every political party is supposed to have participants inhouse representing the political parties. Those representatives are not representatives of a particular municipal caucus or they are here as delegates and participants of the political parties as is the commitment and communication that we as the steering committee have given out.

I am requesting, co-chairperson, obviously now you cannot do anything, but can I ask that you consult this Table Staff so that for other engagement sessions that we are going to have, we don't find ourselves in contravention of our own practice. The issue here is, I do not know what the issue is as far as the counsellors online, but I do know for a fact that Ndiphiwe Olayi is not here because he is a counsellor in Stellenbosch and an MMC; he is here as a delegate and a participant of the DA. I do not know whether other political party participants are here who hold office elsewhere. I, myself, cannot speak, Liam cannot speak, Mr Bath behind me cannot speak. Not that I cannot speak, the only person that is here to speak on behalf

of the DA as a participant is Olayi. So, please consult the Table Staff with that.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): We are not going to be consulting any Table for now. I think when I indicated that those who are serving in different spheres of legislations must not participate, the House agreed. You didn't bring this issue of the steering committee. So, we are going to swiftly continue in terms of engagement. I want to open for the last round on this side. Those who are not Members of Parliament, those who are not counsellors but coming from youth formations will be noted ...

[Interjections.]

From the virtual platform we have people that have registered here. Hon members, I believe all of us have been here, and as I said, nobody made *rao rao* [objection] when I said that those who are serving in different spheres of legislatures must not ask questions on the basis that we want to allow youth formations to participate and give us mandate on what we need to speak on.

I have made that ruling and the hands that I am noting now are for inputs and questions. Before I hand over to those who will be continuing with this session, I am pleading with yourselves

that, let us not make this session clumsy because we want to satisfy each other ... [Interjections.]

Is it a point of order? You were given rules, colleagues ... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Co-chairperson, on the general rule seven, a ruling by the chairperson on a point of order is final. So, we rely on that. Can we please move forward ... [Interjections.]

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon Govender, over to you.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Colleagues, can I make an appeal? The co-chair has stated what the rules are for today. Let us try and stick to that because many of us must travel and we must keep time. Some people must catch flights, and we do not want to delay them. Let's just stick to the rules and if anybody wants to make further submissions, please put it in writing and that will be considered.

Those that are coming from legislatures and so on, you are here to take note of these issues and take them back to your relevant structures. So, let us give the others an opportunity to speak their mind and let's try and keep time. I will hand back to the co-chairs to manage the session. I am making an

appeal. Let's be orderly so that we can move forward in our programme. Thank you very much.

Ms J S MANANISO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, hon Govender. Hon members, thank you for understanding that the decision of the chair is final as point number seven. Before I hand over to hon Breedt and hon Kobe ... hon Zondo, there is nothing that you are going to say. It is unfortunate you were a little bit late, and the decision we have taken remains as it is.

Hon members, what I want to indicate to members who were supposed to raise hands on issues that we presented on earlier on, we would want you to do some written submissions and then we will give them to specific commissions and then send to you. Just write that question on an email and send to us. We will then send it to the specific departments or commissions that have made presentations.

Please note that this is a first of its kind. We have seen the things that we need to refine, redo and plan as we move forward in terms of making this Youth Parliament work for young people.

I am now handing over to hon Breedt and hon Kobe to come and continue with the session. I thank you.

**SESSION 4: INDUSTRIALISATION AND EMPLOYMENT – MEANINGFUL YOUTH
ENGAGEMENTS**

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Ms T BREEDT and Ms M P KOBE

Ms T BREEDT (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for this lively debate. Just give us a second.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for being here. In the interest of time and not wanting to make elaborate speeches, although I also have a lot to say on this point, let me firstly start by welcoming my co-chair, the hon Malebo Kobe. The two of us have come a long way in terms of women in Parliament, so having the youth in Parliament is very welcome, and it is fantastic to have you here.

We are, as you know, an hour and 15 to 20 minutes behind schedule, so we are going to try and catch ourselves up so that we can make lunch and ensure that, when we get to our youth statements at the end, we don't as, we say in Afrikaans ...

Afrikaans:

... rammel dit af. [... rush through it.]

English:

I am very sorry. I hope there are interpreters. I cannot think of the word – but we don't want it rushed.

So, we have 45 minutes for this session, which will take us 15 minutes into lunch, and I do apologise for that. Lunch will be 45 minutes, but we will repeat that at the end of this. If you look at your programmes, we will take the following two sessions that were to bring us to lunch: "Industrialisation and Employment", where we speak to entrepreneurs, and then we will go to meaningful youth engagement where we have "Building a bold future: Driving Africa's future, nothing without us and involving young people."

Presenters, you will have, and I do apologise for this, five minutes. Please get to your point and make it concise. In Parliament, as Members of Parliament and the steering committee will know, we all get either three, four, five, or 20 minutes. You are very fortunate if you have many minutes. We both have five minutes in the NCOP and National Assembly, so it is possible to say what you want to say within those five minutes. Then, we will open the floor for engagement.

I do, however, want to say and make this comment: We want all your inputs, we want questions, and we want to ensure that there are responses. Please make notes. You all have the P20 Youth Parliament email address. Please submit your statements

and your questions in writing to that email address so that our wonderful staff can make sure that your questions are responded to, that nothing is rushed, and that we can follow up on that. Without further ado, I am going to hand over to my co-chair as she introduces our first speaker.

Ms M P KOBE (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you so much, hon Breedt. As she has said, we are not going to waste a lot of time, but I would like to just give a little bit of context into the next session that we are going into. We are going to be speaking about industrialisation and employment. Our next speaker is going to be speaking to the roughly 2 million South Africans who are discouraged from looking for employment, but, more importantly, he is going to be speaking to the 3,8 million who are not employed, not in training, and not in education.

We are going to be speaking to a business owner who is the chief executive officer of Msindwana Holdings: Waste Management and Recycling, which is, at the very basis, something that does not require, I believe, a lot of upskilling. I think those are the low-hanging fruits where we can bridge the gap and create employment opportunities. So, without wasting any more time, Mr Luvuyo Msindwana, please come to the forefront. South Africans are waiting to hear from you.

Ms T BREEDT (Co-chairperson of the session): Can I just ask the Table staff to set the timer to five minutes so that we can guide our presenters accordingly?

Mr LUVUYO MSINDWANA (Chief Executive Officer: Msindwana Holdings: Waste Management and Recycling): Good afternoon, everyone. Let me take the opportunity to greet the Chair and the Minister in front of me, the two Chairpersons of the NCOP, ladies and gentlemen.

IsiXhosa:

... ndiyanibulisa nonke ngale njikalanga.

English:

My name is Luvuyo Msindwana. I am the chief executive officer of Msindwana Holdings, a waste management company that was started around 2016. Our main focus is waste management services. I am not really going to dwell on our business because we were actually given a few topics to talk about.

The first topic is industrialisation: What does it do, and how can we implement industrialisation as a country going forward? We all know that industrialisation involves a country expanding and industrialising across many sectors. What I want to focus on is what industrialisation does for us as a country

and how it promotes jobs, particularly for young people in South Africa.

If we look at countries like China, they are the masterminds of industrialisation. How do we then bring that to our country to make sure that we create employment for young black South Africans? How does it boost our economy as a country? Once we start to industrialise, more jobs are created, and those jobs will go back to our economy, boosting it and helping us fight the high unemployment rate we are facing by employing, upskilling, and uplifting young entrepreneurs.

However, we need government intervention. There is a lot of red tape when it comes to small businesses in our country. For instance, even in government departments, when you are a small business with no experience, coming from the dust of Khayelitsha, Langa, or Nyanga East, you don't have experience. You know what you want to do, you know your goal, and you have a future, but when you start registering your business, you meet lots of red tape along the way – institutions like the SA Revenue Service, the Department of Labour, and institutions that are relevant for you to be compliant and to run your business properly.

Our government has made some strides by introducing bodies like the National Youth Development Agency and the Small

Enterprise Development Agency to assist small businesses.

However, the turnaround time for these departments to get back to you is very poor. You might get approved today but only receive funding the following year. This means you lose contracts in the process, and the people you wanted to hire lose their jobs. I think it would be much better if government could improve the turnaround time for funding. Regarding the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, for black businesses, particularly those disadvantaged in the past, black economic empowerment is one of the key drivers that help us access the market. Corporates will not give you jobs or contracts without you meeting these requirements.

There is a lot that the Minister and his department need to do to remove red tape and allow small businesses to operate, creating more employment for young people in our townships. Thank you very much.

Ms M P KOBE (Co-chairperson of the session): A round of applause to you from the House. I think, Minister, the task we have now is to reduce as much red tape as possible and to make the environment very palatable and conducive for young people to actively take part in the economy.

The next speaker is Ms Lolwethu Luthuli, who will be speaking on "Building a bold future: Youth economic participation for sustainable development and global solidarity."

Ms LOLWETHU LUTHULI (IT Co-ordinator Faculty of Business and Management Sciences, Cape Town University of Technology):
Chairperson. I'm not sure if we will still project the slides, but, if not, good morning, Chairperson.

[Technical fault. No recording of sitting for three minutes.]

An HON MEMBER: Chairperson, we can't hear her. Please turn on the sound again.

Ms LOLWETHU LUTHULI (IT Co-ordinator Faculty of Business and Management Sciences, Cape Town University of Technology): The digital poverty that we have – even if we can make the submission of having all the digital literacy and computer literacy taught in schools, the issue remains that we do not have enough data in schools. We also have the issue that rural communities do not get the information they need. Most of them are still trying to load yesterday's status while we are already speaking about what is happening today.

So, perhaps we need to prioritise that so that, even if we do embed digital skills in our students, we are able to engage them. As an academic, I know how difficult it is to teach

students who come from different walks of life. One knows how to use the computer, and the other one does not, but we still expect them to produce the same results and pass in the same way. So, we need to also be practical about it. How much money are we deploying? Besides just giving people devices, do we follow up with skills? Do we engage them? Do we educate them on that? Just to conclude, the next thing that comes after you have engaged me is that you need to give me an opportunity. That means employment must come next.

As a council member, we did a site visit to the technical and vocational education and training, TVET, colleges, and it is amazing how much TVET colleges are doing. It is really showing us that not everyone needs to get that qualification. Other people are good with their skills. So, how do we nurture the science and research there in our communities, the skills that we already have, shown through generations and history, that we can be using? Also, how do we get our youth into decision-making positions?

You know, it is always interesting when statistics comes out and they say: Oh, we have this number of people in higher education, which means we are doing well. Where are they sitting, though? Are they academics? Are they sitting in offices where decisions are made? It is good to have parliamentary representation, but are they sitting in

ministerial offices that can make decisions? That is something we also need to address.

As I conclude, Madam Chair – thank you so much – I want to leave us with this quote from Robert Kennedy:

Every generation inherits a world it never made; and, as it does so, it automatically becomes the trustee of that world for those who come after. In due course, each generation makes its own accounting to its children.

Us sitting here today, we are making that accounting. The reality is that the answer is not more policies. It is really implementation. Have we gone back to evaluate and monitor? Thank you so much.

Ms T BREEDT (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, Ms Luthuli. I think you and I share the same passion regarding literacy and, specifically, language. Allow me a soapbox moment to say that I think it is really unacceptable that we have 12 official languages, but our children cannot go to school in all 12 official languages and that they have to make a decision between two languages. So, thank you. Thank you for that input. It is greatly appreciated.

Our next speaker is the national spokesperson for the Embrace Diversity Movement who will be speaking on driving Africa's future through development, inclusion, and youth empowerment. Please welcome to the floor Ms Busisiwe Nandipha Nxumalo.

Ms BUSISIWE NANDIPHA NXUMALO (National Spokesperson Embrace Diversity Movement): Greetings to everyone and all protocol observed. As I said, my name is Busisiwe Nandipha Nxumalo. I am a member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex, LGBTI community must pronounce their them. So, for me, this is all about ... and thank you for this opportunity.

So, for me, I don't know if you do know that in Youth Month it is also International Pride Month, and I also stand here on behalf of young people who have long been spoken about and seldom to. I speak for those particularly of the LGBTI community who are black, rural, poor, undocumented and differently able.

How many of us here knew that this is a Pride Month? Do we have a programme that we are going to be exercising during this Pride Month and if you do, please make sure your programmes are meaningful, long lasting and creating change. The role to change society does not lie only in one person's hands it lies in all our hands. It the responsibility of all of us to change society.

Why does this matter? Young people who are queer are often rejected from their homes, bullied in schools and denied healthcare and targeting of violence, yet our voices are often always excluded from spaces. The hate crimes and hate speech legislation has now been enacted. What are you doing to implement this legislation? As I said that it is a collective responsibility always to lead society and South Africa also has a responsibility to be leading on the African continent.

Why are we not calling out the anti LGBTI legislation that is happening in Ghana when we are saying that we are the defenders of human rights? So, I'm calling upon all of you to do intentional work around LGBTI and not forget that the Youth Month is also about including those who are often left out.

What can we do? I've given you all these problems now I'm going to give you some solutions. We need to be institutionalised in queer politics in every space that we are doing. We need to ensure that legislation is protected. We need to ensure that there's inclusive education and affirm healthcare. We need to use our foreign policy to defend the rights of those who are forgotten. We need to be funding grassroots organisations to create safe spaces. We need to be ensuring that we are reducing inequality.

What does this mean? It means that we need to have accessibility of young queer youth in public spaces, protection under the law and representations and decisions. We need economic opportunities; we need cultural and social acceptance. This is to Parliament for recommendations. You need to always mention LGBTI youth in all your policies when you are doing oversight and we need to ensure that we are included. We need to be promoting human rights in LGBTI not just in South Africa, but beyond the borders.

We need to be finding more inclusive educational and shelters. We also need to be championing this in a social partner. So, as I said that this is a collective responsibility it's not just my role, it is your role whether sitting in a nongovernmental organisation, NGO, in a political party, in every space that you take up. Civil society must also defend and advocate, the youth must lead, and government departments must collaborate. I thank you.

Ms M P KOBE (Co-chairperson of the session): I will tell you what, can she also get an extra round of applause for keeping to time. She was the shortest most succinct speaker.

[Laughter.] As we move over to the next speaker, I think you know the various presentations that were received from the National Planning Commission from Statistics SA have really painted and given us a strategic analysis into the beast that

is unemployment and exclusion, particularly that the face of unemployment is woman. I'm particularly happy about this because most of the speakers that we have here are primarily women, the representation of women. Can we have a round of applause for that?

Our next speaker is going to be speaking about the theme of *Nothing Without Us: Enabling Economic Participation of Youth with Disabilities Through Structural Reform and Participatory Governance*. Ms T Ngcai, please come to the forefront.

Ms T BREEDT (Co-chairperson of the session): Do we have a roaming mic. Okay, can I ask my colleagues from the steering committee just to assist us?

Ms THEMBELIHLE LILY NGCAI (Disabled Youth SA): Disability extends to my hands and therefore I just need support withholding. Excellent. Thank you for your indulgence. Chair, good afternoon to Minister, good afternoon to thank the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson who is here, good afternoon, esteemed Members of Parliament, fellow youth delegates and global observers.

Before I begin, allow me to honour the lives lost in the recent natural disaster in my home province of the Eastern Cape. We grieve with their families and communities still

awaiting the news of loved ones. The courage of those who continue rescue and relief efforts is etched into our collective memory. I rise today, not in spite of the province that I come from, but because of it.

My name is Thembelihle Ngcai, a young black disabled women and the Chairperson of Disabled Youth South Africa in the Eastern Cape. I carry with me today the voices of those too often spoken about but really spoken with. Our message to you today is simple, but it is not soft. Youth with disabilities are no longer asking to be included. We are already leading. The question is whether you are prepared to follow through.

The Eastern Cape, with its deep-rooted liberation history remains among the provinces with the highest disability prevalence and some of the lowest indicators in youth employment, education and assistive access. In my province, less than 10% of youth with disabilities access sustainable public employment or bursary linked skills development. Only three out of 43 special schools were refurbished in the last infrastructure cycle. Youth in residential care homes still wait years for mobility devices, basic communication aids or access to mental health care.

Unemployment among youth with disabilities hovers above 64%. It is a silent crisis, but we also carry powerful hope. Our

communities, activists, caregivers DPOs like Disabled People South Africa have filled the gap where government has struggled. These organisations are not just stakeholders; they are system builders.

We are a province of resilience, but we must ask, for how long must resilience be the substitute for rights. We do acknowledge the establishment of the disability rights machinery in some provincial departments. We also acknowledge the provincial workstream for disability mainstreaming launched through the Office of the Premier and most importantly. We also acknowledge the Office of the Premier's 2025-26 Annual Performance Plan, APP, which now starts to echo a recognition of disability as a developmental priority. But good policies without budgets are only declarations. Intent is not implementation and inclusion without power is performance.

Today, I bring you three proposals of many that we have tabled to Parliament that we believe will move us from symbolism to systemic change. The first proposal is disability implementation hubs. We propose the establishment of disability implementation hubs Lusikisiki, Qonce and Zwelitsha, as interdepartmental public-private spaces to co design inclusive employment, youth entrepreneurship and access to adaptive technologies. Let these hubs be the test beds for scaling to all provinces.

Our second proposal is a youth disability inclusion scorecard where we are requesting that a youth disability inclusion scorecard be embedded across the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, Setas, National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS and the Extended Public Works Programme with the DPOs as co-auditors. We would like to track spend, reach and outcomes, not just as activities. What gets measured gets done.

Our third proposal is the institutional representation at all levels. It is time for youth with disabilities to have a seat in working groups, intergovernmental forums and parliamentary advisory desks from District Development Model, DDM forums to the Office of the Speaker and the Office of the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces.

This institutional representation is not about tokenism; it is about supply side legitimacy. South Africa's G20 Presidency is not just a geopolitical event, it is an opportunity to demonstrate to the world that disability inclusion is not a side issue, it is a structural question of development justice and innovation.

In 2023, Italy earmarked over €160 million for inclusive labour transition. Japan formalised its disability future design innovation strategy. India hosted the first G20 event on assistive technology. The G20 is moving and so must we.

South Africa has a chance to become the moral centre of the Global South on disability inclusion, but only if we stop managing disability and start governing for it.

Hon members, youth with disabilities are not passive recipients of pity or policy. We are co-creators of democracy. Our Constitution promised. We do not want charity, we want consequences. We do not want mentions in minutes we will mandates.

So, today, on this floor, I respectfully but firmly ask, will Parliament institutionalise annual disability focused hearings? Will DPOs be treated as system actors, not spectators? Will we finally be counted, not just statistics, but in strategy?

Let history remember that we did not merely commemorate disability, but we co constructed a country that works for all. Let the world look at South Africa's G20 moment and say, this is where the voice of global disabled youth was not just heard but answered. We do not ask for power because we already have it. We simply ask you to recognise it and to act accordingly. Thank you very much.

Ms T BREEDT (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, Ms T, for those ... *malibongwe* ... for those really empowering

words. One thing that stood out for me is you asked us, are we prepared to follow through. I think from Parliament's side and from my co-chair and I as we sat here, we as Parliament are not following through because as a youth member here who is supposed to have a voice, you should have been allowed on this podium, not in front of it. So, please let Parliament take note of this, we are not prepared, and we are not following through and that is not acceptable in a country that says it is for human rights. So, I do want to apologise on behalf of Parliament for that but thank you for that inspiring message.

To conclude this session, ladies and gentlemen, we will be discussed passing involving young people in shaping global politics. I would gladly invite our SA Development Community, SADC Youth Parliament member, hon Ms T Manong, to the podium.

Ms THAKANE MANONG (SADC Youth Parliament): Chairpersons, greetings to everyone and all protocol observed. My name is Thakane Manong, and I'm from the SADC Youth Parliament. The SADC Youth Parliament is a eh, eh, eh ... I'm really sorry I'm quite nervous. [Laughter.]

Ms T BREEDT (Co-chairperson of the session): You are protected, mam.

Ms THAKANE MANONG (SADC Youth Parliament): The SADC Youth Parliament is a regional youth-led advocacy platform whose core mandate is to represent the interests and aspirations of the youth in the SADC region. Its core mandate is to foster unity, solidarity, co-operation, diversity, inclusivity and equality. The SADC Youth Parliament is officially convened under the SADC Youth Forum, Pan-African youth-centred regional development platform for young people across the SADC region and is under the mentorship of SADC Parliamentary Forum. Through this platform, young leaders advocate for regional co-operation, human rights, environmental protection for the present and future generations, peace and sustainable development across Southern Africa.

It is very urgent that we involve youth in global decision-making processes. We cannot overstate it enough that youth need to be involved in global decision-making processes. With more than half the global population under the age of 30, young people constitute a demographic majority and a reservoir of untapped innovation, energy and perspective. However, as the statistics have shown, we still have a very limited participation of youth engagement. It will require systemic mechanisms that empower young people as equal stakeholders in governance and policy development.

Earlier this year, in my capacity as the Rapporteur for the SADC Youth Parliament Disability Rights, Gender and Young Women Development Standing Committee, I had the unique opportunity of interact with youth across the 16 SADC countries on disability issues including sustainable financing structures to cater for persons with disabilities. These interactions were done during our virtual standing committee sessions earlier in March in preparation for the first sitting of the Third SADC Youth Parliament where we had critical discussions and debates on youth issues and resolutions adopted to foster transformative action and meaningful and effective engagement of youth in the region.

The importance of youth engagement is that young people possess firsthand experience of emerging global challenges such as the climate change that has been mentioned in previous presentations, the migration and unemployment as it has been overly emphasised in our sessions. Their involvement ensures that the policies are informed by contemporary realities and are forward looking in their design and implementation. Also, long-term solutions require the buy in of young people who will inherit the outcomes of today's decisions such as the decision we are going to be making today. Inclusive policy-making fosters ownership, it fosters accountability and it will continue across generations. It is also important for us

to include youth meaningfully to bring innovative approaches and fresh perspective to solving complex issues.

My recommendation therefore would be that governments and global institutions must create formal mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making bodies like the youth tables that were mentioned in earlier presentations. We must also invest in skills and knowledge of young people and must enhance to effectively contribute to policy development.

As a representative of the next generation, I believe that young people have a unique ability to inspire transformative changes. Platforms such as the P20 Youth Parliament and forums like the EU-AU Civil Society Organisation, CSO Youth Forum that I had the opportunity to attend, exemplify the impact of youth engagement when facilitated effectively. Therefore, on behalf of the SADC Youth Parliament, I reaffirm our commitment to advancing youth-led advocacy and working collaboratively to ensure that global policies reflect the aspirations, rights and needs of young people. Thank you very much.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Ms M P KOBE (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you for that, hon Manong. We're going to move on to our next session, which is a Q&A session. We're not going to take much of your

time because we know you're desperately need to break for lunch. So, what we're going to do, just a few housekeeping Rules. We're going to ensure that our questions, we stick to two minutes each. We're going to take three from the side. We're going to take three from the other side. And we're going to take 3 online and if we do not have time for the answers, we're going to have the answers in written reply just so that we keep the session short.

And for the presentations that we had, I understand that it looked like we're suppressing some of the speakers, they will be circulated so that you have time to engage with them sufficiently afterwards. All right, thank you, any hands. Okay, yes. Okay, three gentlemen this side. Ladies, Oh, yes, him. Which one? [Interjections.] Yes, you, ma'am afterwards. And then a nice intergenerational mix. And then we'll have and then we'll have, sir, over there. Okay, first speaker, yes, your two minutes is on now.

Mr DUMISANI NKAMBULE (Stellenbosh Univerity): So, my question is to Mr. Msindwana. I mean, he was highlighting like some hidden struggles as a Chief Executive Officer of Msindwana Holdings. He's something like starting a business as one thing and staying compliant accessing supply chain or being recognized by government and industry is another.

So, my question exactly is: What concrete support exists to help township-based youth enterprises similarly to his scale up, especially in dealing with things like the BEE certification, Sars registration and accessing public procurement?

And secondly, can government consider a township industry accelerator where youth in informal economies get fast track, regulatory support and market access, not just ones of grants?

Ms T BREEDT (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, sir. And you are within your minutes as well. I think township revitalization is a big question and issue as we are seeing, you know, money being spent but not physical boosts to the ground action. So, thank you for that. Then I think it was the gentleman with a greyish white blazer. Your two minutes starts now.

Mr CHAD LOUW (PA): Chairperson, I'm Chad Louw, representing the PA. Chairperson, I just have two questions. One is with related to red tape. No, I've been hearing that we've been having a chat about entrepreneurship, and young people have been facing a challenge with regard to red tape because it's not simplified and it's not smooth. At the end of the day, you get delayed and it's stagnated and young people don't get the opportunity at the end of the day.

Secondly, my question is with regards to, I actually expect the government to come and say, listen to the youth today that we have created so many jobs with regards to entrepreneurs and then also get information based on demographics, because if I can make an example, we have coloured people, it's 8,5% of the population and to at least know that how many jobs have been created for 8,5 population would have been given us an opportunity to see whether we are moving forward on an equal basis or are we moving skew unequally because the last speaker ended off by saying that we want to create an equal society. But when it comes to development and growth and even the gentleman from Statistics SA talked about economic growth. Are we growing equally or are we growing skew? Thank you, Chairperson.

Ms T BREEDT (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you so much. For that gentleman in the hat and I do apologize. My programme director has just informed me that we are 120 people who we have to feed. So, we were hoping to make it half an hour lunch, but unfortunately half an hour will not see all the mouths feed. So, we are going to scaled down to a minute. I think the previous two speakers did that in a minute. I timed it. So, it is possible. So, gentleman with a hat on that side before we go this side, we are asking the staff to get the online participants correctly. I even spoke in his time. So, please gentlemen, you have a minute.

Mr VUYO TOLOGU (Chairperson of the South African Youth Council (SAYC) - Eastern Cape): Greetings to the House. I go by the name of Vuyo Toloku, the chairperson of "SAYC" from the province of the Eastern Cape. Despite of disparities that we are talking about here having to have policies like National Youth Policy, National Development Plan, I think we are not deliberating enough on the challenges that are causing the disparities that are faced by the youth of South Africa, including poor policy implementation, inadequate monitoring and evaluation and centralized education curricula.

I'm happy that the hon lady there, spoke about this thing of decolonizing education system, because I think we need a review of some policies to make it a point that we review our curriculum and make it a point that it creates opportunities to address this thing of skills mismatch so that our youth can be equipped and be able to participate into the mainstream economy and the lack of collaboration. I think the lady who is a member of SADC Parliament ...

Ms M P KOBE (Co-chairperson of the session): Your question, sir? Your question?

Mr VUYO TOLOGU (Chairperson of the South African Youth Council (SAYC) - Eastern Cape): It was rather a comment and the recommendation. I think you are a lady from SADC Parliament. I

ordinarily I had thought that perhaps you might be able to deliberate on the geopolitical tensions that are happening in the world and how South Africa can manoeuvre its way so that it can be beneficiary for our country. And I thought ordinarily you would address the issue that is happening in the continent, the issue of Sudan as we have colleagues in Sudan, our colleagues are crying for help. They have been reaching out to South Africa for help. Thank you so much.

Ms M P KOBE (Co-chairperson of the session): We're going to move over to this side. If we can have the gentleman here who is a learner, we will give you one minute.

Mr O NGETHU (Student from Manzomthombo Senior Secondary School): Thank you for recognising me. I am (full name) ... [Inaudible.] ... Ngethu, a representative from Manzomthombo Senior Secondary School. I would like to refer to the statements that were made earlier on by the Financial and Fiscal Commission by Miss Nombeko Mbava, which all expenditure on consumption and investments in infrastructure and architecture.

Chair, I believe that instead of us actually investing in social grants that are, for example, investing in maternal and unemployed individuals, I believe that we should invest in every individual or every learner that is included or is

involved in the South African education system in order for us to raise people who will be critical thinkers, people who will be able to come up with new solutions and new plans in order for us to prosper as a nation.

I believe that if we will be funding people who are living of social grants, that are maternal and unemployed it amplifies or it invests in their minds set that you should be dependent on the things that they will be supplied by the government, of which if we were to invest in the education system it would create more opportunities. We should also remember that education is not just physical sciences and mathematics, education is arts and culture and education is literature. Education is everything that everyone can also do within their own selves. This can increase people increase people's ability to think out-of-the-box and broaden their thinking.

In order for us to prosper as a nation, I believe that instead of us involving or investing in social grants such as for the unemployed, we should invest in every letter of the South African education system. Thank you.

Ms M P KOBE (Co-chairperson of the session): That junior he is actually the perfect person to speak on the issues of learners. Well done! Well done, for that submission. Next, is the young lady with the glasses on.

Ms APHIWE MBELE (CPUT SRC: Treasurer General): Hon members of the House, I am Aphiwe Mbele, the treasurer general of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, CPUT, Student Representative Council, SRC. I will start by realising that how the youth have been excluded in meaningful engagement and decision-making, for instance, how policies are made, how laws work and how governance affects the lives of the people. My question is open to the House: How can government ensure that political education is integrated to schools, communities and youth programmes so that young people are empowered to engage meaningfully in conversations, decision-making processes to enforce that a sense of ownership among our youth? Thank you.

Ms T BREEDT (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you so much, well managed time on that side. Yes, I think those are discussions we can have over lunch. I will take the gentleman with a puffer jacket. Your one minute starts now. Uh! excuse me. So, before you start, is there a point of order? Thank you, sir. However, we unfortunately have to break it because we are running out of time. We have that gentleman and then we will conclude.

Once again, Chairperson, ... no, no, no, let me conclude. Yes, order members, order! I am not having this in my House. No, I am not having this.

Cllr P L RACHIDI: Don't be emotional!

Ms T BREEDT (Co-chairperson of the session): According to Rule 7, the decision by the Chairperson has been made final. So, I will ask this House to honour the decision made by the Chairperson of the previous session. I can confirm that the steering committee is aware of the situation and has discussed the matter. You did not raise your hand. No, no, no, no! We are not having this, your hand was not noted. Order members, order. We are not doing that. My co-Chairperson did not note your hand, we noted the three members at the back. It is now the gentleman with a puffer jacket and the glasses' turn. We will now move. Sir, with a puffer jacket, your minute starts now.

Mr P PHITO (National Union of Mine Workers): Hon members and fellow delegates, this is Philile Phito speaking from the National Union of Mine Workers and mine will be brief. Based on the industrialisation and employment, it will be of a mandate from the House to the hon members that since you know that industrialisation is part of the development of the youth in the country. So, comrades, we would like to demand that ... excuse me, I mean hon members ... it is just that I am used the comrades of the mines.

Yes, hon members, mine from the National Union of Mine Workers will be that we reindustrialise so that the youth can be included and transformed through special skills that will also enable them to participate in this new era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, hence this programme of the Expanded Public Works Programme, EPWP. This programme should be revisited to equip young people to reach portable skills that they can carry on with their lives. Thank you.

Ms M P KOBE (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you. We will now move on to the virtual platform and have a question from Mr Senzo Mkhwanazi.

An HON MEMBER: I don't know how you missed noting this young learner who was raising her hand very up high and enthusiastic to speak but she raised her hand. So, I don't know how you skipped her because you are noting Mr Senzo Mkhwanazi.

Ms M P KOBE (Co-chairperson of the session): Mr Mkhwanazi, if you can just hold on. Hon member, she raised her hand just like we had multiple hands raised, but the House, we, had resolved that as our housekeeping rules we will take three hands and they will each have two questions to ask and we have made that decision and have exercised our prerogative to choose which ones will be asking. Mr Mkhwanazi, you can proceed. Mr Mkhwanazi are you there?

Mr SENZO MKHWANAZI: Greetings hon Chairperson and all the hon members. Am I audible?

Ms M P KOBE (Co-chairperson of the session): Yes, we hear you. You can proceed, you are eating into your time, Mr Mkhwanazi.

Mr SENZO MKHWANAZI: Very quick, my question is: What are our Higher Education institutions doing to make sure that our educational system is producing more of job creators than the job seekers? Thank you.

Ms M P KOBE (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, Mr Mkhwanazi. Very succinct.

Ms ZAMAJOZI SITHOLE (NYDA Applicant): Greetings to everyone ... sorry, what is happening here. Okay ... yes, greetings to everyone. My first question which I had already posted in the chat was on the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA. What are we doing to strengthen the NYDA in ensuring that it achieves its mandates? You will find that they have so many different programmes or services for youth, however, the administration is an issue. For example, I tried to sign up for one of the trainings that they have for young people if they want to start businesses but I never got a response. I did follow-ups and nothing happened.

So, what are we doing to ensure that the NYDA is strengthened and improved so that they can fulfill their mandate to the youth of this country? My second question is, when it comes to meaningful participation of youth, what are we doing to develop or to promote youth participation from local level up to national level, or even exceeding the level?

My suggestion would be, let us look at forming like youth forums and strengthening these youth forums from local level right to regional level so that we can ensure that we are developing young leaders that know what they are doing and can push forward the developments of this country. Thank you.

Ms T BREEDT (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you Ms Sithole that is much appreciated. Colleagues, thank you so much for this engagement. I want to thank all the presenters who made the presentations. Thank you for that. As my co-Chairperson has mentioned, there was a link distributed to political parties, please, make sure - members who are in attendance - please, make sure you get that link with all those documents so as to be able to engage.

I think it would be very pertinent during lunch. I hear there are some ideas and people have suggestions. So, I want to encourage you all to have a discussion and chat about that. I do apologise that we do not have time for any more questions.

I do want to advise you that p20youth@parliament.gov.za is the email address that we are using for this Youth Parliament. Please, send your questions and your suggestions those that are captured in the chat online we will also include them. We will make sure that those are responded to and that they are taken into the report. Thank you for that, Chairperson.

According to our House Rules, lunch will be served. Lunch will continue up until 14:00 – that is 33 minutes. It is not a lot of time. I have been informed that there are three serving points. To my left to some of you is right, there are two serving points. If you pass that into the restaurant, as well, there are three serving points. Please, distribute amongst yourselves. Can I ask you, please, be back by 14:00. I am sure the bells will be rung for that to alert you. We will return for our next session where we will hear from our permanent delegates and from our political party delegates that are here today. Thank you so much. Enjoy lunch.

**SESSION 5: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROVINCIAL CONTEXT AND KEY
DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES – CREATING STRATEGIC PATHWAYS TO
ADVANCE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACROSS PROVINCES**

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Mr M BILLY and Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE

Mr M BILLY (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon members, hon members, please settle down, we are about to start. Let me start by apologising for the slight delay. Hon members, hon members, please can you settle down! The hon member from the IFP, hon Zondo. Hon members, can you please settle down so that we can start the programme. Let me first greet you all. My name is Mzamo Billy, I am a permanent delegate of the National Council of Provinces from the province of KwaZulu-Natal and my co-chair will introduce herself just now. But I just want to clarify that in terms of the programme, we should be having a discussion or presentation from Mr Ndzoyiya, which is: *The Social Inclusion and Education Access*. Unfortunately, we've been told that Mr Ndzoyiya is not yet here. We are not sure whether he is on his way and because of that we are going to go to the next item on the programme which my co-chair will quickly outline and call the speakers. The next programme is: The NCOP Permanent Delegates Statements, my co-chair will speak to that. I thank you.

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE (Co-chairperson of the session): I thank you.

IsiZulu:

Sanibonani, Mabandla kaMjokwane kaNdaba, sizwe sikaMthaniya

...

Sesotho:

... re a le dumedisa kaofela.

English:

Welcome to those who are here for the first time.

IsiZulu:

Igama nginguNaledi Chirwa-Mpungose ...

English:

... and I was in the NCOP as a permanent delegate of Gauteng, and we are now in the National Assembly. And shout out! Okay. So, welcome to the second part or after lunchtime of today's programme.

IsiZulu:

... khona manje sizokwenza.

English:

A brief overview of the provincial context and key development priorities creating strategic pathways to advance youth development across provinces is a summary of all of alignment with national and provincial frameworks, NDP MTDP and PGDS. We just want to say thank you to Ndzoyiya for not coming to today's session on behalf of the SA Union of Students, SAUS, because there is no SAUS. The term of SAUS ended in 2023, and

they are here to go to the elective conference. It is a democratic House, and we respect democracy. So, we just want to say thank you to the people of SAUS for protecting the integrity of this House and today's business.

AN hon member: You are out of order, Chair.

NCOP PERMANENT DELEGATE STATEMENTS:

Ms J S MANANISO: Thank you, co-chairs.

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE (Co-chairperson of the session): Just a second, hon Mananiso, ...

IsiZulu:

... uxolo!

English:

Please, take her time back to three minutes. The NCOP delegates will get three minutes each to give their overviews on provinces. So, please stick to your times, and we will make sure that you take three minutes. Nothing above that. Over to you again, honourable.

Ms J S MANANISO: Thank you, hon Chirwa, and congratulations once more. As Gauteng, we want to commit in this House that we

will continue promoting 4IR on issues that have been raised today as well. We want to inform you and commit as well that we would make sure that there's a uniform, professionalised and focal budget for youth development at all levels. We would ensure that there are quality sustainable jobs because we know we have initiatives like Amapanyaza and the Agricultural programme that have been made in Gauteng. I am speaking about Gauteng, not Western Cape. So, we are going to make sure that we strengthen the work that has been done already. Issues of supporting SMMEs and those who are within the informal township economy are one of the programmes that we think that we would be advancing and making sure that we strengthen it through the funds that are coming from the Office of the Premier and as well from the investment summit that we just held as Gauteng. Other issues that have been said here and elaborated on, we want to commit as Gauteng that the issue of inclusion of persons with disability, LGBTQI+ society, rural youth and those who are vulnerable and marginalised per economic class or sex or race would be included in terms of the mainstreaming of development and empowerment. We want to further ...

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon Mananiso, please just hold on. There's a point of order there.

Mr S S ZONDO: I'm not accounting to you. Hon Chair, I just want to check: Is it proper that the NCOP bring older people to preside and present on the youth debate? So, we want to understand if there's one young ... on that because we are discussing matters of young people and we need young people to be given a platform to engage. I want to understand that.

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE (Co-chairperson of the session):
Please sit down. You may sit down, please. Hon member, please sit down.

Mr S S ZONDO: No, no.

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE (Co-chairperson of the session):
Please sit down. Switch off your mic.

IsiZulu:

Ngikuzwile, sikuzwile.

English:

This aspect, the steering committee decided on this programme. I think the member of your party did a disservice to you and your views by not raising these issues in the steering committee. So, we will proceed with the programme of the day because this was not raised, and you are not noted.

Mr S S ZONDO: No, no, no.

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE (Co-chairperson of the session): You are not noted, and I've made a ruling.

Mr S S ZONDO: I sit in the steering committee. There was no time where ...

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE (Co-chairperson of the session): Please switch off your mic. Can we have Protection Services in the House to remove the member for not following the orders of the Chair. Switch off your mic. Please quiet down, please quiet down. There are two chairs on this podium. If there are issues you wish to raise, we will note you, and then we will give you clarity going forward. But do not cause the House to degenerate. Do not cause disorder in the House. We will not allow that sort of behaviour because there was ample time to make amendments, to make recommendations, and they were not received. So, switch off your mic and allow hon Mananiso to continue. I thank you.

Ms J S MANANISO: Thank you, co-chair. It is unfortunate that I cannot school hon Zondo about how we work in the NCOP and I am here delegated with authority to come and address this House. As I continue, co-chair, those representing youth in the form of councillors, CEOs and as well as directors in their space,

they must make sure that as they speak on issues of deliverance, empowerment and opportunities, they don't leave young people behind because there is a 40% that we always speak about of inclusion. It is not because we want something as kickbacks, but to ensure that we are mainstreamed and we deal with our crosscutting issues as we have to.

In conclusion, Chairperson, hon members, I want to say to all of you that it is unfortunate youth development doesn't have a face, a size. It doesn't have sex. Actually, all of us are experiencing the same challenges that we always speak about as triple challenges, unemployment, inequality and poverty. United we stand, divided we fall. So, it is upon us, we are the now, the present and today. Thank you.

Mr ZAMA LUCAS SIGWEBELA (Free State): Chairperson, good afternoon all hon members, first and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to say that we stand opposed to one of the views by the National Commissioners, as per their recommendation that part and parcel of resolving unemployment is about sending labour immigration or sending young people to other countries. Why are we differing with that? It is on the basis that labour migration is not a solution as per the Marxist perspective and Marxist view and that itself is to subject young people of South Africa to a super exploitation and alienation, and other factors that are associated with

capitalist societies. So, as a result, we do not agree with that recommendation, and then we are saying that the recommendation is not a well-thought-out recommendation from the national commission because young people cannot go to be exploited and alienated in other countries as they are the reserves of intelligentsia and the future of this country.

From the Free State province, we agree with all the recommendations that have been put forth, and we are saying that we would implement and will continue to support the SMMEs that are in the core economic pockets of the Free State, including agricultural initiatives. Also, we agree with the call of the ANC Youth League, including the President, who has made it clear to say that beneficiation must happen, especially in the Free State, whereby we are a mining town, and minerals must not leave the country. But beneficiation must take place and then employment must be provided. We are also doing what we call a skills revolution, government issuing out bursaries and working with Setas to ensure that we tap into skills that need to transform the economy and ensure that all skills that are not necessary to drive the economy of the Free State are being funded.

And lastly, Chairperson, we as the Free State, we would continue to say that the programme that has been initiated over a period of time by the Free State provincial government,

partnering with BRICS countries such as Russia, the Republic of Belarus, Cuba, Portugal, China, where we have sent a large number of students for skills revolution that now each and every province benefits out of that. We are not keeping them to ourselves as a Free State province, but they must benefit all lengths and breadth of the country to ensure that the knowledge that they have gathered in those BRICS countries and others benefits everyone as we continue to strengthen South to South co-operation. Thank you, Chairperson.

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGUSE (Co-chairperson of the session): We did not receive the name of the speaker who is going to represent Mpumalanga. But we will still open the floor if there is an NCOP permanent delegate or somebody who is given the responsibility to give an account on behalf of Mpumalanga. Please, do raise your hand and come forth. If there isn't so that we may continue. Can we also check on the online system ...

IsiZulu:

... ukuthi ikhona yini iMpumalanga?

Sesotho:

E teng?

IsiZulu:

... cha, ikhona iMpumalanga.

Sesotho:

... empa ha ba phahamisa letsoho labona. Re tlo tswela pele ka North West. Le bona ha ba romela lebitso la motho ya tlo emela North West.

English:

On behalf of Northwest Online ...

IsiZulu:

... sicela nisibukele lapho online ukuthi bakhona yini lapha ...

English:

... in the Chamber. Just indicate with your hand so we can give you an opportunity to come forth and speak. If there isn't, we will move on. There is no indication. We will now move on to Limpopo province.

Ms SEANEGO TUMELO SEBOPELA (Limpopo): Hon House Chairperson, allow me to pass my sincere greetings to the House and stand on the already established protocol. This month, we honour nearly 50 years since the Soweto uprising, a turning point in our country's history, the 1976 young people that stood up against an oppressive system demanding equal rights, language

rights, quality education and the freedom to shape their future. Many paid the ultimate price, but their courage paved the way for the freedom we hold today.

I stand here, hon Chairperson, as a product of the sacrifices of 1976, and it is our responsibility not just to remember the past, but to act boldly in the present. Like one of the speakers mentioned earlier that we are not the future, but the present. We are leading now, not in the future. Yet, as we reflect, we must also ask. What have we done with the freedom they fought for?

In Limpopo, many young people face immense challenges, with the most critical one being that of youth unemployment. Limpopo is unquestionably endowed with large mineral deposits. We have 35 mines in the province extracting coal, diamonds, platinum, chrome, and others. We hold a very firm view that 70% of these minerals being extracted from our province and exported to other countries should be refined in the province to benefit the local people of Limpopo. We should build an industry next to a mine. There must be an industry for the purposes of processing. You take many young people there to train and work there. They will enhance their skills and experiences while working in these industries. We draw courage, particularly in development opportunities like the special economic zones in Limpopo. The Musina-Makhado and

Fetakgomo-tubatse special economic zones are set to create over 21 000 jobs for the people of our province. These zones must prioritise youth entrepreneurship, support and equal access because indeed, real economic inclusion is the key to breaking cycles of poverty and inequality.

The other important aspect of Limpopo's richness is agriculture and tourism. These important economic drivers must be greatly explored on how they can best enrich the youth. Limpopo is Africa's Eden. We have fertile soil and warm climate. Many fruits and vegetables grow on our land, but there's only between 11 and 18 agro-processing companies. There's a gap that we must fill, especially with youth-led businesses in this aspect.

On the economic front, Limpopo is home to world-class natural sites like Kruger National Park, the Mapungubwe and the Waterberg Biosphere. We also offer rich Venda, Tsonga, Pedi cultural experiences, and these are powerful tools that we believe we can use for youth empowerment and employment, especially in hospitality and eco-tourism and digital content. So, when you get a chance, you guys must visit us in the north. Thank you.

Mr M BILLY (Co-chairperson of the session): We are going to move back to Mpumalanga. We are told that hon Stevens Sekoakoa is there.

Mr STEPHENS THAPELO SEKOAKOA (Mpumalanga): Hon Chair, we want to apologise for not being prepared when we were called. As part of the Mpumalanga resolution, we resolved that, on financial literacy, we must introduce a basic education level and also provide education on Contract Law; transform TVET colleges and universities to provide skills that are relevant to the local economy of Mpumalanga province, in particular, as Mpumalanga's economy is based on specialised coal mining; ensure transparency and regulation for government tenders; implement consequences for proper conduct in terms of government procurement services; create more permanent employment opportunities for young people; build free-owned state capacity that will create jobs for young people; revise the SOEs that will incubate enterprises that will be able to compete globally; have youth representation in all sectors of government and programmes; conduct a skills audit in all sectors of employment; implement land expropriation without compensation for equal distribution and economic growth for the youth; invest more in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable for the purpose processes, to fund initiatives to make climate-smart agricultural resources accessible for emerging businesses and funding; implement strict, to ensure

that the 30% beneficiaries for local companies go to local communities.

For industrialisation employment, we must unlock markets and Hems industries and opportunities to create employment and create trade opportunities to benefit from the Hems industries; relevant education and training for young people should be introduced; regulate immigration policies to ensure that certain sectors are protected for the local communities to benefit.

On social inclusion, the process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society is important. Part of it and the resolutions that we have taken is to strengthen the SAPS community policies and rural safety forums, to include young people, and strengthen the SAPS for youth desks within the province as well.

On the access to basic housing, we must strengthen integration and specialised planting. Access to health facilities promotes sexual and reproductive health and rights for sexual reproduction. I thank you.

Mr O J MOKAE (Northern Cape): Hon members, the presiding officers, hon Les Govender and hon Cedrick Frolick, hon Minister Chikunga, the P20 Parliament delegates, fellow young

people and the citizens of our beautiful province, the Northern Cape, socioeconomic conditions imposed on our youth through consistent systematic failures neither respect nor honours the sacrifices made by the generation of 1976. Inept implementation of poorly researched policies, combined with nine official policies on corruption, state capture and unashamed looting of state coffers condemned our youth to perpetual unemployment and poverty.

The economic exclusion of those born in the Northern Cape begins with the provincial government's inability to provide access to quality education. As much as the Northern Cape prides itself on having the most improved matric pass rate in 2024, the unpalatable reality is that the province had the worst pass rate in the country for the past two years and has not gone higher than the bottom in the past six years. Now, just how bad are we, if you are the most improved but still the worst?

Without proper educational footing, the Northern Cape youth are unable to put their best foot forward in the job market. Youth unemployment in the province measured 36% in the fourth quarter of 2024, with the promise of mega projects that are unable to bring lasting economic relief to our young people. We need real economic growth in the province, not just election promises. I want to go further, we need real

opportunities for our youth to create and sustain their own businesses, not just shipping containers branded with the premier's face being dumped in communities just before by-elections take place.

We need to learn from policies and initiatives implemented by governments that work, such as those of the DA-led Western Cape, which created 121 000 new jobs in one year. In the same time, the Northern Cape only scraped together 12 000 new jobs. There is great opportunity for the Northern Cape, particularly in the renewable energy sectors. Young people of the province must be at the centre of those developments, whether they are from Kakamas, Okiep, Colesberg, Galeshewe, Maropeng or Ikhutseng.

I need to emphasise that all development is ultimately human development. The development of our young people forms part of the backdrop, for which all other progress is built. And, as we heard from the mayor of the beautiful city, the junior mayor, the youth is now, the youth is today. If we heed this call, where there is a political will to do better and to respect the sacrifices from the 1976 youth by being better, there will definitely be a better future for those who come behind us.

Afrikaans:

Baie dankie.

Setswana:

Ke a leboga.

English:

I thank you.

Mr M BILLY (Co-chairperson of the session): Do we have anyone from the Western Cape? Okay, no, no, no! Hon members, we have agreed that we are not going to take that direction. If there is not a speaker from the Western Cape, we are going to move on to the next person on our list.

Mr VUYO JALI (Eastern Cape): Hon presiding officers of both Houses of Parliament; the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Govender; the Chairperson of Committees of the NA, hon Frolick; the Minister in the Presidency, hon Chikunga; hon members, and delegates that are here with us today, please, receive my warmest greetings. It is an honour for me to say a few words in the P20 Youth Parliament on behalf of the Eastern Cape delegation.

Our province is still reeling from the devastation caused by the recent floods, which have claimed lives and caused massive destruction and loss of property. Our different spheres of

leadership and civic organs are working around the clock to deal with this situation. From the perspective of the Eastern Cape province, we understand our task is not just one of policing government, but we are a platform and the voice of people in having their matters advocated for.

While we are faced with low and stagnant levels of economic growth and stubbornly high unemployment, we appreciate the commitments made by our provincial government in working to turn the tide. In his state of the province address, our premier, Mr Oscar Mabuyane, announced several government initiatives to assist the youth, and these included the following: training programmes in partnership with the Setas to benefit more than 37 000 young people in programmes such as artisanry, emerging contractors, development, youth brigades, agricultural entrepreneurship, skills and graduate incubation; a unique Eastern Cape project called, Basic Initiative, which will benefit 28 000 unemployed young people of the Eastern Cape; placement of 180 young people with disabilities on an assistant chef programme to equip them with culinary skills.

In responding to the burden caused by historical student debt, the Office of the Premier has partnered with the Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority, MICT Seta, to allocate R70 million towards student debt clearance. Qualifying students will be

called upon to approach their institutions of higher learning to access this relief. As Parliament, we have an oversight duty to ensure that these and other programmes are implemented accordingly.

As I conclude, we come from a province that emerges from a history of being deliberately designed to be labour reserves, and we were purposefully underdeveloped by the oppressive government of the past, and this meant that our development trajectory started from the lowest ... [Time expired.]

Mr M BILLY (Kwa-Zulu Natal): Hon members, the Deputy Chair of the National Council of Provinces, the hon Frolick the House Chair, fellow South Africans, and more importantly, young people who are here today, I must start by saying that having listened carefully to the many inspiring and well-presented submissions coming from many of you today makes me filled with so much hope. I am motivated that, as a member of this Parliament, I need to do more to get this country working again. It gives me hope that this country and its future is in safe hands.

KwaZulu-Natal remains one of South Africa's most vibrant, yet most challenged province. While blessed with natural beauty, cultural richness and a youthful population, it continues to face high levels of unemployment, poverty, inequality and

limited access to economic opportunities, particularly among young people. The youth unemployment in the province is almost 60% and many of them are not in education, employment or training. These figures are not just numbers, they are young lives caught in a cycle of exclusion, and unless we act with urgency and intent, we risk condemning a generation to permanent marginalisation. To turn this, we need to have a look at a few things. First, we must radically strengthen youth focused education and skills development with greater alignment to local economic opportunities such as tourism, agriculture, digital technology and renewable energy sectors. TVET colleges and training hubs must be resourced and reorientated to deliver future skills that meet both market demands and community needs.

Second, we must foster inclusive entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems in our communities, and this means supporting new businesses, reducing the red tape that we see from businesses that are started by young people, but more importantly, partnering with the private sector to support the same youth-owned businesses, particularly in townships and in rural areas.

Our province, KwaZulu-Natal's future will be defined by the opportunities we create for its youth today. Let us move from rhetoric to action. Let us build our province and country,

where the place you are born does not determine the life that you can lead. Fortunately, the province of KwaZulu-Natal is governed by the Government of Provincial Unity, GPU, and it is succeeding and it is changing the lives of young people. I thank you.

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you, hon Billy. Hon Billy is effectively the last member from the NCOP to provide an overview of the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

IsiZulu:

Ngicela nizishayeleni izandla.

English:

You were so good.

Afrikaans:

Jy was baie goed. Ons is baie gelukkig om die tyd met jou te spend [spandeer].

English:

We shall continue, but I think one thing we want to say just before we leave is that this isn't a permanent alternative. We want young people to be real decision-makers, to be in the National Assembly, to be in the NCOP to be legislators in

municipalities in our provinces, and I think this session gave us a good overview of what the future should possibly look like and what it should look like even today as we encourage all young people to be politically active.

IsiZulu:

Zibandakanyemi namaqembu ezombusazwe ...

English:

... young people. Read the manifestos. Read the policy documents. Read about and follow Parliament.

IsiZulu:

Ama-Integrated Development Plan, IDP, ...

English:

...meetings ...

IsiZulu:

... wahambeni ...

English:

... as young people and this is an invitation to everybody in this House, those who are at home, on 16 June ...

IsiZulu:

... sizobe sise-King Zwelithini Stadium ...

English:

... for the Youth Day rally. I thank you.

Mr M BILLY (Co-chairperson of the session): Order!

[Interjections.] No, I have called the order. Look, we have concluded this process. I am not sure what the hand is about. Is it a point of order?

Mr ATLEGANG LEKABE: Yes, it is. Chair, on a point of order: The hon co-chair is abusing power. She must please retract or withdraw that statement. You can't sit in this House and abuse power as the co-chair. Yours is just to co-chair and not abuse power. Please respect the House.

Mr M BILLY (Co-chairperson of the session): Can I assist here, please because we have got other hands coming up and we've got other colleagues who want to continue with the programme. I want to respectfully ask that we allow the other panel members to come to the stage. I know my co-chair wants to respond to that. I am not sure if ... [Interjections.] ...

Mrs N N CHIRWA-MPUNGOSE (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you.

IsiZulu:

Bhuti wami ...

English:

... there are four rallies in KwaZulu-Natal on 16 June. You will choose which one you want to go to, but young people must be politically active.

IsiZulu:

Ngakhoke ngo-16 Juni ...

English:

... KwaZulu-Natal young people, we are calling you. There is no crime and there is no abuse of power. It is an open invitation for young people to convene and participate in political rallies.

IsiXhosa:

Uyayiva ke ngoku?

Afrikaans/slang:

Danko!

English:

Mr M BILLY (Co-chairperson of the session): From our side, thank you very much. I am truly inspired by the work ... [Interjections.] ... Thank you so much. Thank you.

Ms F HASSAN: Just for clarity, the youth event addressed by President Cyril Ramaphosa will be in Potchefstroom in the North West. Thank you.

IsiZulu:

Amandla!

**SESSION 6: POLITICAL PARTY STATEMENTS – YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES
FROM VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES TO ARTICULATE THEIR RESPECTIVE
PARTY POSITIONS ON KEY YOUTH ISSUES ALIGNED TO THE P20 YOUTH
PARLIAMENT**

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Ms K L KHAKHAU and Ms L SAPO

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): Order, hon members. We are now on the last session of the Youth Parliament, where we'll be giving the political parties to give their perspective on the youth issues aligned to the P20. For the benefit of those who do not know me, my name is Balungile Sapo. I'm the member of the National Assembly deployed by the ANC. I will then give it to my co-chair to just outline the purpose and the rationale behind this particular session.

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Co-chairperson and hon members, greetings. My name is Karabo Lerato Khakhau, I am a member of the National Assembly, I represent the DA and I'm also from the Free State.

Afrikaans:

So, haak Vrystaat, haak!

English:

Colleagues, we have had different presentations from different stakeholders aligned with the subthemes of our P20. Just to refresh everybody who's probably online or just joined the session, and also to refresh our minds here in the House, so that we have an understanding of what exactly is it that the political parties are going to be submitting on. You'd note that we have two, four, six subthemes. The first one being inclusive economic growth, the second one, industrialisation and employment, the third one, meaningful youth engagement, the fourth one, inclusive social development, the fifth one, African development, and the last one, universal access to education. So, each political party here has three minutes each to deliberate on behalf of their political parties in accordance with these subthemes.

Also, as a standard protocol, you have three minutes wrist right in front of me on the lectin on your left, the three-

minute timer is available. We're not going to remind members to check their own times, once your three minutes is done, it is done. Take your seat. So, I'll now hand over to my coach here to call the first speaker on.

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon members, we will request that you utilise the co-chair on my right, so that we can be able to manage time. While we are calling the first speaker from the ANC, we'll request that the speaker from the DA to wait on the co-chair on my right. Hon Olga.

Ms M O SEATE (ANC): Co-chairperson, my name is Olga Seate, I am from the National Assembly representing the ANC and hon co-chairperson, ever since the 1944, youth engagement has always been an important long-term passion and commitment for the ANC. So, the ANC firmly believes that the youth population holds the potential to provide comprehensive advice and support to the government in light of the alarming trends of high levels of poverty, inequality and unemployment that are skewed not only by race and gender, but also by age as well as sexual physical orientation, as they are disapprovingly affect, generally, the youth, and particularly, youth and youth living with disability. Establishing and strengthening a platform like the P20 Youth Parliament should not be an ad hoc, random undertaking or malicious compliance from the side of the ministry, but rather, as such, a platform should be

part of the wider strategy by the Parliament that represent an opportunity for different youth perspectives and voices to shape policy response to socioeconomic challenges that hold back young people in the working age group from actively participating in the mainstream economy.

For instance, limited revenue inhibits the government to invest in technological infrastructure to redress the digital divide that marginalise the youth. It also undermines the government's commitment to invest in quality education and training, and good healthcare to take advantage of the demographics divided. Despite the bleak picture of the declining youth empowerment, the Government of National Unity, GNU, is charting a course for youth development that has greater potential to lift marginalised and vulnerable youth out of poverty, inequality and unemployment traps. These includes, amongst other things, the Transformation Fund under the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, DTIC, which seeks to provide financial and nonfinancial support to enterprises owned by historically disadvantaged young people South Africans, as well as including the youth, in particular, and the attempts to convert the Social Relief of Distress, SRD, grants, into a basic income grant which will act as a buffer against the cost incurred by the youth in the pursuit of decent jobs and in the economy.

The ANC Youth League, lastly, will be in support of its call for its youth president, president Collin Malatji, to call on all ... [Interjections.]

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon member, you can take your seat.

Ms M O SEATE (ANC): ... all structures or responsibilities of power ... [Interjections.]

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon member, order on you, or I'm going to chuck you out of this House.

Ms M O SEATE (ANC): ... including the position of the President of the Republic of South Africa. Malibongwe! ... [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon member, you are being disrespectful to the House. Hon members, what has just happened now will not be tolerated again, you all are given strict instructions that you have three minutes to speak. In front of you, right next to you, you have a time indicator. The next speaker who attempts to do that will have to pay for that, I will not have it in this House. The next speaker is a participant from the DA, hon Cllr Ndipiwe Olayi.

Cllr NDIPIWE OLAYI (Federal Leader of the DA Youth): Finally, finally. Hon co-chair, my name is Ndipiwe Olayi, I am the DA Youth Federal Leader. Firstly, I'd just like to make a submission regarding the proceedings of today. I am of the view that, initially, we should have received that documentation beforehand, so we can apply our minds and contribute constructively. Additionally to that, I want to make sure from the previous sittings of this august House, Youth Parliament, rather, where are the feedback reports in terms of the discussions of that day? How is Parliament exercising its oversight and monitoring processes to ensure that this, I'm gathering here today, does not happen on an ad hoc basis, limiting our contributions to three minutes, limiting the youth struggles to one month, limiting us and young people to a single day where we then be silenced by the co-chairpersons of this House who we are here to represent the generations of young people that are outside there. Our struggles as young people cannot be limited to three minutes.

Hon members, distinguished guests, the unyielding youth of South Africa, we stand here as a generation that refuses to be silenced, forgotten and the future... Thank you very much. We stand here as a generation that refuses to be silenced or forgotten, demanding a future that matches our dreams.

IsiZulu:

ILUNGU ELIHLONIPHEKILE: Amandla!

English:

Cllr NDIPIWE OLAYI (Federal Leader of the DA Youth): We face our harsh true reality and a harsh truth of promises of jobs. Funding safety institutions such as the National Youth Development Agency, NYDA, National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, and others, have crumbled into empty words. We fed platitudes, not progress, leaving many of us feeling abandoned, but are not defeated. Forged in adversity, we reject the future of broken commitments. History proves that youth are change makers, from the Soweto 1976 to today's global movements. As young people, we've already secured a Government of National Unity, GNU, that marks a milestone where young people organised, mobilised and ensured that our voices are heard, and today we have a Government of National Unity, GNU, but our mission continues.

In next year's local government elections, we will demand accountable leadership by the national elections. Our row will be defining our struggles of unemployment, inequality and exclusion must drive the agenda daily and not limited to one day or three minutes. To leaders, we demand real investment in education, entrepreneurship and safe communities. No handouts, no rhetoric. To the youth, which is us, let us mobilise, organise, and flood the powers of and corridors of powers with

our resolve. We acknowledge these resilient youth of Umtata whose strength inspires us. Our mantra is clear, when the youth works, South Africa works.

There are key priorities which are, economic growth, tackling youth unemployment and entrepreneurship. For employment, create jobs through private sector partnerships ...

[Interjections.] ... spend in Technical and vocational education and training, Tvet, for relevant skills and embracing green initialisation. For youth engagement, institutionalise junior councils, and the National Youth Digital Democracy Platform for policy input. ...

[Interjections.] ...

Ms F HASSAN: Hon co-chair.

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): Hold on, hon member. Can you please take your seat. Yes, hon member.

Ms F HASSAN: Co-chair, I am hon Hassan. I would like to call an order on the table staff on the timer. We have timers on our phones and we have already exceeded the amount. So, if it could be look at officially because we all have timers on our phones. Please, do be consistent. Our speaker was stopped earlier than ... [Interjections.]

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon Hassan, there is a timer just in front of us. The hon member hasn't exhausted his time.

Cllr NDIPIWE OLAYI (Federal Leader of the DA Youth): I said, eight seconds left. Lastly, Minister, when will the announcement be made regarding the NYDA board? We cannot be led by an illegitimate structure which appoints CEOs in small corners. Please announce on the NY ... [Interjections.] [Time expired.]

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): The next speaker on the speakers' list is the member from the MK. Okay, we will check on the virtual platform. Can we get the speaker from the EFF?

IsiZulu:

Nk M DLAMINI (EFF): Angithathe leli thuba ngibingelele abantu abasha, izidlamlilo ezizosikhulula, ngibingelele ...

English:

... president and commander-in-chief, CIC, Julius Malema, commissars, fighters and ground forces. The EFF has consistently maintained that an entire systematic change is fundamental for tangible economic progress. This is more so for young people in South Africa who want a radical economic

shift in response to poverty, inequality, high youth unemployment and other social ills, tried and multilayered economic status of our people. Part and parcel of our solution-based approach are the EFF's seven non-negotiable cardinal pillars that will see the tide turn in the interest of our nation. It is expropriation of land without compensation for equal redistribution, nationalisation of mines, banks and other strategic sectors of the economy without compensation. Building state and government capacity which will lead the abolishment of tenders, free quality education, healthcare, housing and sanitation, massive protected industrial development to create millions of sustainable jobs, including the introduction of minimum wages in order to close the wage gap between the rich and the poor.

Close the apartheid wage gap and promote rapid career paths for Africans in the workplace. On behalf of the EFF, we will continue to advocate for the rights and the inclusion of people living with disabilities and ensure that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex, LGBTQI, plus, community, continues to be recognised, not only by words, but also by actions. These are tried and tested scientific interventions that the EFF has consistently narrated and pursued since 2014. The failure of the ANC and the Government of National Unity, GNU, to implement the these has proven solid to the lack of commitment from those in power

to achieve economic freedom for the youth in our lifetime. It is apparent that only the EFF has the zeal, commitment and the willingness to secure the present and the future of our nation, our land, our economy and our futures.

IsiZulu:

Amandla!

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Order, members. Thank you, hon Dlamini. The next speaker or the next participant will be from the IFP, that is hon Ms Nkosiphile Zwane. Members, a reminder, please, my co-chairperson made a request earlier that if you are speaking next, please use the chair at the front so that we don't waste time. Thank you, Ms Zwane.

Ms NKOSIPHILE ZWANE (IFP): Hon Chairperson, fellow youth representatives, Members of Parliament and all distinguished guests, good day. My name is Nkosisiphile Zwane as mentioned and I stand here not just as a delegate, but as one of the young South African people who carry the burden of being ready but not given a chance. Who wake up each day full of potential yet feel locked out of their future. To begin with, we must applaud great leadership when we see one. I am referring to the current President of Burkina Faso, Ibrahim Traoré. You may

ask yourself, why is he iconic? Well, he has managed to make sure that his country owns its resources.

Relevance, you may ask. This is where our problems stem from as a country. We do not own our resources and just maybe had we owned our resources, the current struggles that we are facing would have been alleviated a long time ago. I speak especially for those in rural areas and townships where opportunities rarely arrive. Where talent is too often wasted simply because no one ever invests in it.

Let me be honest, South Africa's youth is not okay. We are not lazy. We are not unambitious. We are unemployed, unsupported and unheard. Youth unemployment stands at over 40% nationally and over 50% in some provinces. This is not just a number, it is pain. It is pain of watching ...

IsiZulu:

... abazali bethu ...

English:

... give up their last savings so we can submit job applications that are never answered. It is the pain of depression in silence and of feeling invisible in a country that you love. We cannot afford to keep managing this crisis with half-measures and pilot projects.

IsiZulu:

Sihlalo, ...

Sesotho:

... ha ho kgonahale.

English:

That is why we call for something bold. Let us invest 25% of our GDP in infrastructure, not just in cities, but also in places that have been left behind for decades. Infrastructure is not just roads and bridges. It is healing, it is dignity, it is jobs, it is hope and it can lay a foundation for an economy where young people finally have a seat at the table. And under this investment, we must centre youth.

That is why we propose the following reforming of the National Youth Development Agency and the Small Enterprise Development Agency, Seda, to make funding accessible, create youth enterprise zones in every province, prioritising youth co-operatives and SMMEs in procurement, phasing in the national youth infrastructure and establishing a youth development implementation and oversight framework.

IsiZulu:

Sihlalo, lezi ziphakamiso ...

English:

... are not just dreams, they are survival. They come from our lived experiences. We want to build, contribute and thrive, but we need a country that meets our willingness with action. Unemployment is not the only problem that the youth faces, but it is the major one that we feel, if curbed, will solve a lot of problems. One stone, two birds.

IsiNdebele:

Ngiyathokoza.

Mr CHAD LOUW (PA): Hon Chairperson, Members of Parliament, hon Minister, today I rise on behalf of the PA to affirm our commitment to a South Africa that works for the youth, the unemployed, the forgotten communities and for every South African who still believes in the promise of a great nation. The PA believes that reindustrialisation begins with bold state investment and partnerships focused on skills development.

The establishment of industrial hubs in marginalised areas absorbs thousands of young people into light manufacturing, agri-processing and technology. Our mineral wealth must no longer leave our shores raw, but beneficiation is key to job creation and national value retention. We propose a state-owned bank that provides low-interest loans to youth and

entrepreneurs, not handouts but hand-ups. Foreign direct investment must align with our national priorities such as renewable energy and infrastructure are not mere resource extraction.

And because the people must benefit directly, we propose a people's empowerment partner to send the profits of national industrial success. We say it clearly; South Africans must come first in employment. Immigration laws must be enforced, and illegal foreigners must be removed. This is not xenophobia, this is patriotism, this is justice. These are jobs for our people and to build a better future. We call on business leaders to embrace servant leadership, mentor others, build communities and leave no one behind.

Our young people are not just statistics; they are the greatest untapped asset. The PA believes youth must be central to policy design and implementation, not passive recipients. We propose a targeted national service programme for youth who are not in education or employment to instil discipline, skills and purpose.

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session)): Please, can you pause, just take your seat. What is it, hon Zondo?

Mr S S ZONDO: Chair, on a point of order: I am asking if it is allowed to take videos and pictures while the House is proceeding.

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon Zondo, I assume you have the Rule sheet in front of you if you are able to point me to the Rule you are referring to and your contestation, I will address you. Until then, mute yourself.

Mr S S ZONDO: So, that means it is allowed. All right.

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Mute yourself. Hon Louw, continue, please.

Mr CHAD LOUW (PA): Thank you, Chairperson. [Interjections.] Can I be protected, Chairperson? Thank you. Education must be reformed with digital learning, real-time coaching and a curriculum aligned to the jobs of tomorrow. Let us empower youth to lead through youth advisory councils and ensure their voices are heard in televised youth parliaments across the country. Investment in sports, arts and culture, not as luxuries, but as tools for healing, unity and crime prevention.

We declare that no one must be left behind. We must train grassroots development leaders, empower traditional leaders

and enforce gender-based violence policies with real actions. Not just empty words, but mental health must become a national priority, with trauma counselling and wellness services embedded in every community. Above all, we believe in reconciliation through dignity and opportunity and that servant leadership must begin at home through mentoring, feeding schemes and restoring pride in our communities. The time for slogans is over. South Africans are hungry, not for food, but for dignity, for justice and for hope. The PA stands ready to deliver that hope, and I thank you.

Ms CHRISZAAN DU PLESSIS (FF Plus): Hon Chair, good afternoon, hon Minister, hon members, my fellow delegates and all the people on the online platform, I stand before you today, not only as a representative of the FF Plus, but as a voice for a generation that refuses to be silenced by false promises, ideological distractions and recycled policies that have failed us for 30 years. South Africa's youth face a stark reality.

A lot of statistics were mentioned today and as of the first quarter of 2025, nearly 60% of our youth are unemployed. One in three young people are not in education, employment or training. And I want you guys to think about what the effect will be in 10 years, in 20 years. While the world talks of a Fourth Industrial Revolution, we are struggling to fix a

broken skills pipeline. The FF Plus believes that a future must be earned, not promised. Let me be clear, we the FF Plus, reject policies that reduce young people to mere statistics and numbers and quotas.

We reject ideological central planning that disempowers the very communities it aims to uplift, and we propose practical, measurable and community-driven solutions. We, the youth of South Africa, do not want handouts we want a fair shot, the tools, the freedom and the space to build our future with dignity and determination. Inclusive economic growth must mean access to opportunity, not state-engineered outcomes.

It means unchaining young entrepreneurs from excessive red tape instantly giving small businesses room to grow. We need to do that instantly. We can't wait. Entrusting individuals to lift themselves when given the means to do so. On industrialisation and employment, we reject the bloated politicised job schemes. What we need are skills, real, relevant skills in trade, technology, green and digital industries.

Our vision for South Africa is that South Africa has technical colleges, private training partnerships and dual vocational learning so that all South Africans can prosper. Youth engagement must be more than just a seat at the table; it must

be a voice that counts. We cannot continue this. We cannot have once a year Youth Parliament where a few people speak. As a lot of the members mentioned today not even most South Africans are represented here today.

We need to take this seriously. We need to understand the problem, to understand and make a solution at the end of the day. We believe in empowering, of course, young South Africans, not through quotas, but through education, civic leadership, critical thinking and democratic participation. I thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr ADVICE CHUMA (Action SA): Hon Chair, the speaker from the Action SA is Advice Chuma. Greetings Speaker in absentia. Hon Members of Parliament, fellow young people across political parties, business and civic organization, today as we gather here, we have a crisis of unemployment in our country. Young people are greatly affected. This conducive platform for P20 Youth Parliament, created for young people to contribute meaningfully, must not be treated as a tick-exercise box. It must be a meaningful one, the one that can bring change.

As Action SA, we urge this sitting of P20 Youth Parliament to exceed the scope of simply consulting young people. It must be characterised by actively involving young people as equal partners when making policies ensuring voices of young people

are heard and our contributions are valued to ensure we effectively address challenges that negatively affect young people, such as unemployment. As part of solution to address youth unemployment, Action SA calls for the rolling out of national voluntary year service as a policy to offer young people an experience that will increase their chances of employment. We also call for establishment of opportunity funds which will raise funds to assist young people confronted with the challenge of funding on their entrepreneurial endeavours and in business.

Now that young people have been engaged in promoting inclusivity and in ensuring a diverse range of young people's views ahead, this should serve as the beginning of a long-term engagement of young people, not just a once-off engagement because we believe in accountability. To ensure accountability, we must establish mechanism that will allow us to hold you accountable as this sitting, and we must receive feedback from our contributions so that we can be able to track the progress.

Xitsonga:

Inkomu.

Mr LAMAR PETERS (ACDP): Hon Chairperson, esteemed guests, young leaders of South Africa, I honour you, Youth Mayor, and

echo what you said. We are here to build tables, but the question is why do not allow us, in the construction, to build those tables? Now, as a ACDP Foundation, do not stand here as spectator Chairperson but there as steward of purpose. So, I speak on behalf of generation that carry stones, not of war, but of wisdom. We did not come with swords Speaker, but we come with solutions, just like David stood before Goliath. We already did. Now, still we want to speak about empowerment. Our call is simple. Let us in not as ornaments but as architects.

We propose youth address week in every assembly, digital democracy platforms and youth-led performance monitoring committees. This is not idealism. This is fact in evidence based. Now in India, the Youth Leadership Mobile programme empowered young people to lead community clean ups, anti-corruption drives and school safety campaigns. South Africa's youth can do the same and also will do the same if given the platform.

Now, Speaker, on education. We know many echo what everyone knows already. Education is key, but here in South Africa, the door is still locked for many. Let us build the education system that is free where possible, digitally equip the language diverse and rural friendly. We drew this from the

Ethiopia's target subsidised model that prioritizes student's health, agriculture and education.

Now, in our own backyard Speaker, it is About Bloody Time Campaign which showed us that even the sanitary pads can tell the difference between a classroom and a dropout. Now, let the Minister of Health sees this not as a charity but as dignity delivered. Now, Stone Three speaks about emotional and physical well-being. We cannot build a nation on broken spirit. South Africa's youth face so much mental health crisis, substance abuse and menstrual poverty. We call for a National Youth Wellness Plan school, based clinics, mobile mental health services and a widespread of recovery programmes.

Now, globally 85% of youth that suffer with mental illness in Africa receive no support. This is a silent emergency. Just like in New Zealand, Acura programme gave free sanitary pads to schools. That is in turn increased the stigma and dignity rise. Speaker, why not here and why not now?

Hon members, let us speak honestly about the giant of debt of R1,2 billion a day interest alone. This is not abstract. This is stolen from schools, clinics, and our young lives. So, we echo the kindest model of fiscal responsibility, where youth are considered and consulted in borrowing decision. We propose

a youth fiscal accountability forum and we remember the wisdom of Deuteronomy 28 that says:

The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

So, in conclusion, as I am wrapping up. We spoke about 5 stones empowerment, education, employment, entrepreneurship and emotional well-being. They are our people. They are the learners. [Time expired.]

Ms LUCIA MAMOKETE MATHOMANE (UDM): Hon Chairperson, hon Minister and fellow delegates ...

IsiXhosa:

... silulutsha lweUDM asothukanga ngala malungiselelo ePalamente yoLutsha angekho semgangathweni. Kakade into yabantu abatsha ayikhathalelwanga kweli lizwe ...

English:

... yet young people play a critical role in the society. They are the future of this country, but they are the most neglected group by the government. Young people in South Africa face many problems, from high employment rate, gender-

based violence, poor educational outcomes and educational inequality to wrestle the forms of poverty. The youth of 1976 should be disappointed and seeing young people suffering like this. We were told that education is the key to success but what success can be when graduates are sitting at home with no with qualifications. Also, the so-called internship and in-services training are failing to absorb graduate in the labour market.

IsiXhosa:

Abantu abatsha bajikajikana nelanga emakhaya ...

English:

... which undermines the idea that education is the key to success. Those who enrolled into institutions of higher learning are plagued by yearly financial uncertainty because the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, Nsfas is met by insufficiency and poor management. Despite R555,4 billion budget of 2025 students continue to go hungry at school, homeless or drop out because they do not get support at first.

My fellow young people, this is not just statistics or stories from article. I am one of students in the Eastern Cape, King Sabata Dalindyebo Tvet College. We are faced with delayed contributions from Nsfas. Firstly, we stay in the filthy residences and out of the out of school campus. We are exposed

to crime; rape and we do not get proper health in proper emergency. We are tired up to the point that when our leaders speak, we take what they say with a pinch of salt. Yet, when we call them out, they say we are disrespectful. Despite these, we have not given up, SA National Youth Policy 2020-2030 calls for economic emancipation and education reforms, inclusion and sustainable livelihoods. But frameworks alone are not enough. Those goals must move from boardrooms into classroom communities and careers. We demand a new social contract that includes reform, education system aligned with regional economy.

IsiXhosa:

Ndivumeleni ntozakuthi ndigoduke, kukude emakhaya.

Ms FRANCESCA VISAGÉ (Rise Mzansi): Fellow delegates and fellow South Africans, it is not just the future that belongs to the youth, but it is the present. At the moment, people under the age of 35 make up over 50% of South Africa's working population. Yet, they, or rather we face a multitude of challenges which we have unpacked in detail today. As Rise Mzantsi, we know that the youth do not just want handouts. We know that the youth want two things. First, to be at the table when key decisions are made in this country, especially where those budget, law and policy decisions impact on the future of this country.

The youth should not just be consulted or asked for their input as a formality. Our young people are smart, many already experts in their field of study. Our young people are entrepreneurial. Many have already started and building businesses that solve problems on the ground. Our young people have lived experiences that speak to the very heart of the challenges and difficulties that we have unpacked today. They have the solutions, fellow delegates and yet on forums such as this, I must also note that all relevant stakeholders should be present. The presence of the hon Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is very welcome, however, given the cross-cutting nature of the issues and challenges facing the youth, the lack of representation from other departments such as the Departments of Basic and Higher Education, Health and Social Development raises the question of whether this gathering will have real and practical impact.

Secondly, the youth want the opportunity to get our hands dirty. The youth do not need anyone to pave the way for them. We can build the road ourselves. We simply need the tools and opportunities to do so. We need skills training that aligns with our capabilities and the needs of our country. We need a focus on mother tongue education and digital skills. We need real and sustainable job opportunities. We need key barriers of entry, especially for women and single mothers, to be

removed to the provision of community health care and childcare services.

Beyond that, the youth is also ready to make new jobs for others. The entrepreneurial spirit, business acumen and innovation are already there. They simply need to be given a real chance. Let us ensure that the youth are a true part of decision making in this country, not merely a fringe group to consult. Let us ensure that the youth have a tool and opportunities to build our own roads in South Africa. And I can assure you, if and when we can guarantee these two things, South Africa would not just survive and grow, it would certainly flourish. Thank you.

Ms PAMELA CUNNINGHAM (BOSA): Hon Chairperson, Members of the Youth Parliament, fellow young South Africans, I greet you. My name is Pamela Cunningham, and I come from BOSA. I rise today not just to speak, but to submit a call to action, a generational mandate rooted in dignity, justice and opportunity. More than 4,7 million of us young South Africans are not in education, employment or training. That's not a number, that is a generation. A generation full of potential, trapped not by laziness, but by exclusion, locked out of opportunity. Shut out of an economy that does not recognise us.

Today, we are not here to complain, we are here to build. Our policy submission is titled: For jobs, for justice, for youth. Because this fight is about more than just employment, it's about our right to belong, to contribute to the democracy promised to us. This is our blueprint: Youth for special economic zones, reserving 25% of new jobs for young people. Township opportunity zones, turning places of neglect into engines of innovation. A national graduate venture fund because ideas need capital and not just applause.

A jobs and justice fund, free from corruption, investing in real projects and not connected cadres. A national civilian service year to build skills, earn stipends and serve communities. And yes, we say end tenderpreneurship and build a transparent, fair procurement system that rewards merits and not just connections. But we didn't stop there. Enabling the Fair Pay Bill, an amendment to the Employment Equity Act that does three things: Bans salary history questions so no young person is trapped in the cycle of underpayment. Mandates salary transparency in job advertisements because we should not be negotiating in the dark. Guarantees the right to discuss pay because pay secrecy protects inequality. This is not just policy, this is structural justice.

We're not asking for favours, we're demanding fairness. We're not the problem to be solved, we are the solution waiting to

be unleashed. By 2028, this plan will employ over 500 000 young people. Fund 100 000 youth-owned businesses. Cut the Not in Education, Employment, or Training, NETT rates by up to 15% and restore belief in the South African dream. So, I ask you, hon members, will we go back to empty speeches and forgotten reports, or will we say this is the moment we turned the tide? The youth are ready to build, but we ... [Inaudible.] [Time expired.]

Mr MMELI MAMPOFU (ATM):Hon Minister, hon members, ladies and gentlemen, I greet you. As I stand before you today, representing the ATM Youth League, I cannot help but reflect on the immense potential that lies within the youth. A potential that remains untapped due to overwhelming challenges we face as a country. Notably the staggering youth unemployment rate of about 62,4% amongst those aged 15-24. That's not merely a statistic, but it represents a lost generation. A generation that is struggling against socioeconomic barriers that stifle their opportunities.

This figure indicates that out of the 20 million 583 529 young people in South Africa aged between 15-34, nearly 13 million are unemployed and about 1,9 million of them are classified as discouraged work seekers, because the status core on its own in this country, is discouraging, frustrating and demoralising for the youth. To combat this crisis, it is essential that we

prioritise South Africans within the microeconomic space by supporting, investing more and creating a conducive environment for the small, medium and micro enterprises, SMMEs.

IsiXhosa:

La mashishini mancinci phaya emakhaya nasezilokishini mawaxhaswe ngurhulumente avulelwe amathuba orhwebo ...

English:

... because they are the backbone of our economy. They contribute about 50% of our national gross domestic product, GDP. It is important ...

IsiXhosa:

... ukuba axhaswe.

English:

Imagine if we can also implement a comprehensive agricultural education at the earliest stages of our schooling system. Making sure now that we resuscitate agricultural colleges, we embed agriculture and entrepreneurship into our curriculum. Making sure that agriculture is at the centre because agriculture not only contributes to GDP growth, but it also enhances food security. It lays the foundation for the secondary industries that can process these natural resources.

In terms of universal access to education, we demand free quality education. Education that will respond to the demands of the market. That will respond to the demands of today's economy. As I conclude ...

IsiXhosa:

... ndithi le Palamente ...

English:

... should recognise the urgency of our situation as young people. It should not be a mere of mere fact of formalities, to tick boxes ...

IsiXhosa:

... njengoko bekukhe kwatshiwo apha. Sifuna ...

English:

... clear time frames and timelines ...

IsiXhosa:

... kwizinto esizicelayo njengabantu abatsha.

English:

I challenge the youth ...

IsiXhosa:

... ndisithi masiliphakamele ilizwe lethu sibheke phambili.

Arabic:

Ms RAMLA MALGAS RUWA (Al Jama-ah): *As salaamu alai kum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatu.*

English:

Peace be upon you all. Hon Minister, Members of Parliament, respected leaders and fellow youth ...

IsiXhosa:

... ndithi, ngqanga neentsiba zayo.

English:

It is an honour to stand before you as a young black Muslim woman, committed to the fight for dignity, justice, and economic inclusion. We, as the black, coloured, and Indian youth of South Africa, carry a heavy historical weight. Apartheid didn't just take our land; it broke our economies. Townships were never meant to thrive; they were designed to restrict.

What we see today, generational poverty, youth unemployment, lack of access to land and capital is the direct result of that engineered exclusion. These are not just inherited problems, they are political realities we must dismantle.

While we fight for inclusion, we are also fighting for survival. In the Western Cape, there are more drug dens than schools. Gangsterism, gender-based violence and the underrated alcohol abuse are destroying our youth.

How can we talk about youth economic participation, when our children are being recruited by gangs instead of guided by teachers? When trauma, addiction, and fear have become the norm for the youth. The mental health of the youth. The exclusion of the youth from many innovation tables. We call for the accessibility of such tables to all, because we cannot speak for struggles at a point of privilege.

Somewhere out there, there is a young person with many struggles who has no idea that this Parliament exists for such issues to be addressed. We demand for every young person's voice to be heard. Even here, not everyone's voice was heard, yet this gathering is only held once a year. We cannot sit here and say we cater for the youth, yet some of us are still silenced. We don't need more talk shops, we need action. A national youth assembly that includes township, rural, and based youth organisations. Real policy influence—not tokenism. Programmes that fight drugs, gender-based violence, GBV, and gangsterism by building alternatives that cater for the problems harbouring the youth from success.

In closing, our struggle is not only political; it is deeply spiritual. We are called by our faith to stand for *adl* justice and to uplift the oppressed. To my fellow youth, do not wait to be invited to the table. Build your own. Then invite others in.

Arabic:

Shukran. As-salaamu-alai-kum.

Mr JOHAYNE CLOETE (NCC): Hon Chair of the National Assembly, Chair of the NCOP, hon members, the progressive caucus and my fellow South Africans, my name is Johayne Cloete, and I am from the forgotten suburbs of Mitchells Plain and Blikkiesdorp.

The reason why we have such high unemployment is because the education system does not give us the necessary skills to find a proper job. The education system needs to be radicalised in order to make the youth more employable. That is why basic education needs to change.

The rate of unemployment in the Western Cape is so high that even Helen Zille is now planning to look for work in Johannesburg, hoping that she might become the Mayor of Johannesburg. And, if Helen Zille is looking for a job ... [Inaudible.] ... the Western Cape, then surely ...

An HON MEMBER: Point of order, Chairperson.

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Order, hon members.

Mr JOHAYNE CLOETE (NCC): Don't you worry! Don't you worry! I have the solution. Here's the solution.

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon Cloete?

Mr JOHAYNE CLOETE (NCC): [Inaudible.]

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon Cloete, take your seat. Members, we are all encouraged to be excited and passionate in our speeches. I do however want to refer you again to the rules. Our excitement must be contained. It shouldn't badger the speaker and we shouldn't converse out loud. When you do what you are doing, you are chowing at his time. So, please allow him to still be heard so that we can still keep the decorum of the House. Thank you.

Ms M DLAMINI: Chair, on a point of order. You can't dictate what a member should debate ...

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): That's not ...

Ms M DLAMINI: ... whether it triggers you personally or not. There's no excitement. It's a position of the NCC and you can't dictate what the NCC should say. You are out of order.

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Hon member, listening is a very beautiful and worthwhile skill. You would note that my submission had nothing to do with Cloete, but it had everything to do with the conduct of the House. So, thank you very much for your enthusiasm. Cloete, take your position.

Mr JOHAYNE CLOETE (NCC): Hon Chair, here is the solution. The youth makes one third of the population, but we only have a minority in Parliament. However, don't worry. Here is the solution, guys. Let ... [Inaudible.] ... grandmas and grandpas retire as Members of Parliament and send at least 45% of youth leaders to Parliament. Then, allow me to end my speech by saying this.

Afrikaans:

Agb lede van hierdie Huis, soos julle vandag kan sien, het ek 'n pikswart hemp aan. Hierdie hemp verteenwoordig die ...

[Onhoorbaar.] ... dae wat vir ons kleurling jeug daarbuite op die Kaapse Vlakte voorlê. Hierdie swart hemp verteenwoordig al die mummies wat ... elke begrafnis moet huil omdat hul seuns deur gangsterism [bendebedrywighede] doodgemaak word. Hoekom is daar gangsterism? [bendebedrywighede?] As julle vir die

jong mense werk gee dan sal gangsterism [bendebedryghede]
nie seëvier nie.

English:

I just want to end off by saying this. We, the youth, can dominate Parliament. We need a young President, we need a young and vibrant Parliament and government, because with a young President, a young government and a young Parliament, we will be so strong that even America will have to bow down to us, where even Britain will have to call us your majesty. But, don't you worry ...

Afrikaans:

... eendag is eendag, my kleurling mense. Ons het 'n wit en swart President gehad. Nie lank nie ... daar gaan 'n kleurling President wees.

English:

That future President might be me. Thank you.

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you very much. Order, hon members. Order, hon members. Order, hon members.

Cllr NDIPIWE OLAYI (Federal Leader of the DA Youth): Point of order, Chairperson.

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): What is the point of order?

Cllr NDIPIWE OLAYI (Federal Leader of the DA Youth): Just to clarify, the Western Cape has the lowest unemployment rate in the country. Thank you very much.

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): No, no ...
[Inaudible.]

Mr JOHAYNE CLOETE (NCC): If that is the truth, why is Helen Zille running away from the Western Cape ... [Inaudible.] ... Johannesburg? [Inaudible.] ... Helen Zille ... [Inaudible.]

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): Order, hon members! Hon Cloete? Hon Cloete? Hon Cloete, unfortunately we don't do that in this House. That is not the behaviour that we can accept in this House. You are out of order.

Mr JOHAYNE CLOETE (NCC): I withdraw, Chair.

Ms M P KOBE: Chair, I just wanted to clarify that he was factually correct that Helen Zille is indeed looking for ...
[Inaudible.] ... in Johannesburg.

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): No, no, no, you are out of order.

Mr SONWABO NXIBA (PAC): Chair, I rise today on behalf of the PAC of Azania to assert the vision rooted in dignity, African agency and economic liberation for the youth of this country.

We meet under the pressing weight of structural youth unemployment, a legacy of colonialism and a symptom of a misaligned developmental trajectory. Young people in our country are not lazy, hon Minister. Young people are systematically locked out to prepare them for the jobs that are not there ... the jobs that do not exist and ... ignored by industries that harbour the opportunities while lamenting the lack of skills and training in our country.

Let us be clear, hon Minister, South Africa's skills Education and Training Authorities, setas, collect billions of rand annually, yet millions of youth remain without work, remain without skills and remain without hope.

As the PAC of Azania, we believe that this disconnect must end. Our proposal is simple, practical and transformative. Let us repurpose the funding for setas towards programmes that offer young people qualifications aligned with real world community needs. Let us forge and establish collaboration

between setas and the 270 municipalities across the breadth and length of Azania, in particular or to be precise, AgriSETA. AgriSETA can rehabilitate our parks, clean our townships and restore dignity in public spaces, and by so doing we are creating employment with the money that we have or that the seta has. Also, while we are doing that, young people will study horticulture and environmental management.

Township schools lack security and sanitation. This is not only a crisis. It is an opportunity to train the youth in basic security, hygiene and facility management. Allow them to earn a stipend and to graduate with a recognised qualification.

South Africa's water crisis is largely due to old infrastructure. Let us train young people as plumbers and water ... [Inaudible.] [Time expired.] You're very brutal.

Mr KABETOA KHUMANEGO MATSIPA (UAT): Chair, Minister, and the speaker ...

Sepedi:

... kgotsong MaAfrika. Yo a emego pele ga lena ke Kabetwa Matsipa.

English:

I am standing here representing UAT. The UAT Tomorrow's Future, referred to as UATTF, is a Pan-African movement that seeks to restore the dignity of African people by addressing poverty, hunger, and starvation. The UAT Tomorrow's Future aims to transform the livelihoods of the poor masses of our people, the sick and the destitute who have been robbed of their birthrights to land, liberty, and justice. The UAT Tomorrow's Future believes that youth development should empower young people to improve their livelihoods and active participants in society.

The following are the key areas to focus for youth development. Firstly, it's land expropriation and access. Youth economic participation can only be achieved by making land accessible to young people. Access to land is the key component to economic participation and development because land has all the material resources needed for economic activity. No economic activity can take place without land. Land to either farm, build, or extract any form of mineral resources.

Furthermore, young people must be supported with all the resources, training, and mentorship needed to be active participants in the economic not the spectators. Secondly, focus should be on education and skills development. The UAT Tomorrow's Future holds the view that decolonised quality

education and skills development should be a catalyst that propels young people to realise their true potential. The education system should be designed in such a way that the curriculum teaches young people to be self-reliable, sufficient, and sustainable.

Education is the most important tool that can be used to awaken the sleeping giants in young people and make them realise their full potential. Decolonised quality education should embolden the youth to play the meaningful role in the economy and take charge of their destiny. Any education that teaches young people to rely on other nations or races for their survival and sustenance can never be a proper tool to be given to young people. [Time expired.]

Xitsonga:

Khanimambo!

English:

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you very much, hon member. The next speaker will be the speaker from Good, the hon Kaden. Thank you.

Mr KADEN ARGUILE (GOOD): Chairs, I acknowledge all protocols to all of my other fellow hon members today, as well as those watching from home. I say ...

Sepedi:

...thobela.

IsiZulu:

Sawubona ...

Afrikaans:

Goeie middag.

English:

... and I say to you, good afternoon. South Africa's youth has a bleak future. This is a reality – you can choose any crisis from the list: A plummeting literacy rate amongst youngsters, crisis of water, electricity, sewerage facilities, and the most expensive cost of living in this country's history. It's because of this depressing dystopia that we find ourselves in the situation today.

We have to ask ourselves that we must acknowledge government's failures in order to allow this dystopia to be created in the first place. If we are to solve the variety of issues facing our youth, the next three to five financial years will be crucial. Good firmly believes that for the current situation to be reversed, we must focus on the sectors highlighted in G20 of education and industrialisation.

The required growth needed in this country can only be achieved through these aspects, and that is our escape through poverty. Firstly, in education, we must ensure that the structural upgrades are achieved at education facilities. It is unacceptable in 2025 that we are still passing the buck and delaying the fact that pit latrines have not been eradicated in this country.

We cannot expect students within this country to achieve FET phase as well as achieve even further and going into the higher sectors if they cannot even have an environment to start with that is enriching and supportive. Secondly, as previously been mentioned today - so I won't be hopping on the topic too much, our technikons are a great strength currently in the country, factually speaking, and as well as survey speaking, they say that studies have showed that high school labour and contributions to the economic growth are specifically coming from technikons when it comes to the increased amount of youth into the workforce. So, these kind of technikons need to expand and upgrade. What I mean by that is that the number of courses that they have need to be expanded.

So, things like what was mentioned today, such as restructuring our entire solar capacity, are vital when it comes to having that infrastructure through technical

colleges. Other things such as Wi-Fi hubs within communities are massive amounts of youth support structures that can be used effectively. With regard to industrialisation, one can easily look at aspects such as port and rail and see how that can immediately make the South African economics grow as well as provide an abundance of opportunities for youth within the country.

I am aware of my time, and while three minutes is very short, I must say that Good says that we have a direct responsibility to ensure that this oversight is actually applied, so that this country has the opportunity to come out of this despair. Thank you.

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Colleagues, you would note that we did not receive a speaker from the MK party. The Table staff has advised that the MK party is represented online. I will now hand over to the Hon Mwali of the MK party.

Mr S G MWALI (MKP): Chairperson, greetings to all hon members and all the delegates. The youth today face unprecedented challenges. Unemployment rates are alarmingly high with many young people struggling to find decent work and inequality persists. Opportunities for economic participation are limited. The government's inability to provide quality

education and job opportunities and economic empowerment left many young people feeling disillusioned and frustrated.

As we commemorate this Youth Day, we must hold our government accountable for its failures, demand action and not rhetorics. We must demand policies that prioritise youth employment, education and economic empowerment. We must also demand a government that listens to the voices of the young people and responds to their needs. To the youth of South Africa, I say, ...

IsiZulu:

... i-MKP ithi kini ...

English:

"Your voices matter; your futures matter; your futures matter." Let's work together to build a future for all. A future where every young person has access to quality education and decent work and economic opportunities.

IsiZulu:

Esikushoyo kafushane nje, abantu bakithi abasebancane bagxilile ezidakamizweni ngenxa yokuthi uma bephuma ezikoleni abanazo izinketho ngoba lo Hulumeni uhlulekile ukwakha amathuba emisebenzi azokwazi ukubhekana nenani elikhulu elikhulayo lokuntuleka komsebenzi.

Njengamanje sibheke u-2030 ngoba sithe kwi-National Development Plan, NDP, ukuthi kufanele kushaye lesi sikhathi izinga lokuntuleka komsebenzi lingaphansi ko-8%. Kodwa njengamanje sihleli kwizinga lokuntuleka komsebenzi elingaphezu kuka-43%

Yindaba? Ingoba lo Hulumeni awunayo indaba nabantu. Ingoba lo Hulumeni awenzi lutho okuzobhekana nezinkinga zabantu abasha. Ngakhoke, namhlanje ngifuna ukusho kubantu baseNingizimu Afrika, ikakhulukazi abasha, ukuthi ithi i-MKP bakhumbule yonke into lo Hulumeni oyenze kini kule minyaka engamashumi amathathu adlule.

Niyikhumbule yonke into lo Hulumeni ayenze kunina eminyakeni eminingi edlule. Sizokulungisa ngevoti ngokuthi silithathe ivoti silinikeze i-MKP osoqhamuka namasu azokwenza izimpilo zabantu zibengcono. Ngiyabonga kakhulu.

English:

Ms L SAPO (co-chairperson of the session): Order, hon members. Order, hon members. Please continue, hon Mwali.

IsiZulu:

Mnu S G MWALI: Sengivala nje, ngithi i-MKP ukulungele ukuthatha izintambo zokuhola izwe uze futhi nezinketho

ezizokwenza ukuthi ilizwe libengcono nezimpilo zabantu zibengcono. Asihlanganeni evotini. Siyabonga kakhulu.

English:

Ms L SAPO (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you very much, hon Mwali. Order, hon members. That brings us to the end of the Youth party statements.

Hon Minister, hon Deputy Chair of NCOP, hon House Chair, presentations were made, young people made reflections, they submitted recommendations and proposed solutions to certain aspects. Now it is the end of our tender as the steering committee. We are going to hand it over back to you to sum up the 2025 Youth Parliament and chart the way forward on what is going to happen from here. Thank you very much.

Ms K L KHAKHAU (Co-chairperson of the session): Thank you. Thank you very much, co-chairperson. Officially, I'll hand over to the Chair of Chairs of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, and that is Ntate Cedric Frolick - who is going to then hand over the closing remarks for us. Thank you very much.

SESSION 7: CLOSING REMARKS AND VOTE OF THANKS
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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon members, we just have a slight adjustment to the programme. Before I hand over to the hon Govender, the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, I want to call on the hon Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. Give her a warm round of applause. You see, the Minister has been here since this morning right until the end. She honoured us with her presence.

The MINISTER OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:
House Chair, I really want to thank the young people of South Africa. It has not been a waste of time. In fact, I think this is a very fruitful day for young people in South Africa. I must tell you that I indeed listened carefully to the issues that you raised and also the many proposals that you made. We take all of them very seriously. I will also request that we be furnished with the recording of this sitting so that we can go through it, if possible. Also, if it is possible, I wish that we could find time to sit together with young people who are Members of Parliament here, both in the NCOP and in the NA, to go through these recordings so that all of us can agree on the minutes, on the actions, on what we should take forward. I will actually request that.

I thought I would be given an opportunity to respond to the question with regard to what we are doing to strengthen the

National Youth Development Agency, NYDA. I am not going to answer that question, but I do have ... The response to that is that we have big plans for the NYDA.

However, I think I must respond to the question about the NYDA being led by an illegitimate NYDA board. Section 9(e) of the National Youth Development Agency Amendment Act 11 of 2024 states that:

Where the board is no longer quorate due to vacancies resulting from mass resignations or there are unanticipated delays in filling the vacancies of the board, the Minister – who is this one – shall make a recommendation to the President to dissolve the board.

We did that because there was a delay in the process of Parliament.

Secondly, “the Minister shall manage the appointment process of an interim board” and “the Minister shall recommend candidates to the President for appointment to the interim board.” We did exactly that.

Then it says that, “The President must designate one of the members of the interim board as the chairperson and another as the deputy chairperson, both of whom shall be executive

members of the interim board", which means they are full time. That has happened.

It then says that the interim board shall perform the functions of the board. "The interim board shall perform the functions of the board until a new board is appointed." So it has the powers of the board. It does not prescribe time, so until the new board is appointed, we have an interim board which is legitimate.

Therefore, social media might be misleading, but I thank you very much, young people of South Africa. I feel empowered, I feel energised. You are the future, you are the today, you are everything that South Africa needs. There is leadership.

An HON MEMBER: Listen properly, councillor. Councillor, listen properly.

An HON MEMBER: You will respect the office of the Minister.

An HON MEMBER: Listen properly, councillor.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you once again, hon Minister. I now want to hand over to the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, who will

make some concluding remarks, after which we will formally close the session.

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: My co-Chair, hon Frolick, hon Speaker of the National Assembly, hon House Chair, the Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, leaders of institutions supporting democracy, civil society organisations that joined us today, hon members, hon delegates in the Good Hope Chamber as well as those on the virtual platform, I greet you all this afternoon.

I must say that having listened to the session today, I feel the energy of the youth. I myself will leave this this Chamber this afternoon very much energised, knowing that the youth of our country are so vibrant in their thoughts, in the discussions and the manner in which they came and presented here today and even those on the virtual platform. Give yourselves a round of applause for your participation.

[Applause.]

Hon delegates, at the beginning of the session I put forward a challenge to you young people. I said, firstly, be bold in your ideas; secondly, be fearless in your participation; and thirdly, be united in your commitment to a more inclusive, innovative and youth driven future. You demonstrated all of that in your discussions today.

As we reflect on some of the key issues that were raised during today's deliberations, the youth spoke in one voice when they stated that we need to be aggressively addressing issues of youth unemployment and youth economic exclusion. Young people also implored government and Parliament to develop a multifaceted approach focusing on education, skills development, entrepreneurial skills and job creation. Young people also implored government to create more opportunities to participate in youth policy-making in order to ensure that government passes laws that takes into account the challenges faced by young people of our country.

Today, we have also witnessed young people engaging in robust discussion and putting forward very aggressive and progressive ideas on how South Africa can change the development landscape to benefit the youth of our country. This engagement will not be just an event. This is a process of active engagements that will continue during the Seventh administration.

It is also imperative to note that for the first time since the inception of the Youth Parliament sessions, we have requested youth formations and interest groups to compile detailed submissions which will shape the youth development agenda for the Seventh dispensation. I can tell you that today we have received a number of submissions from organisations out there.

I am sure that beyond today's discussion, the youth of South Africa is expecting Parliament to outline how we will take your proposals forward to ensure their implementation. This is what we will do. Parliament has taken the time to schedule this session early in the Seventh dispensation in order to develop a targeted youth development agenda to inform our oversight drive over the medium-term. This will enable Parliament to develop a targeted oversight approach focusing on government's planning, budgeting and implementation processes to advance the youth agenda. In order to enable us to commence this important work, a detailed report will be compiled outlining all the recommendations and demands that were articulated in today's session. This report will then be tabled in both Houses, referred to committees and to the three spheres of government for further processing. A three sphere ministerial session will be convened where members of the executive will be invited to provide detailed response plans articulating how government intends to respond to the overarching youth development agenda as articulated by South Africa's youth in today's session.

We will also activate a three-sphere intergovernmental co-ordination mechanism which will prioritise youth-led policy implementation through a well-functioning three sphere co-ordination and tracking programme. In order to ensure that matters raised here today are effectively implemented, young

people will have to be more organised across provinces, metros, districts and localities by getting involved in the planning, budgeting and implementation processes of our country. If you as youth do not actively engage the government of the day, the youth development agenda will continue to be undermined due to youth apathy.

As we actively prioritise social compacting between government, civil society organisations, interest groups and youth formations, we must do so recognising that the youth transformation agenda will not be achieved without partnerships and synergy.

As I conclude, I wish to request that we maintain a vibrant relationship between youth structures and Parliament for purposes of tracking, monitoring and evaluation to ensure sustained implementation of the youth agenda. I want to thank you all for attending today. I will now hand over to hon Frolick for his vote of thanks and close the session. Thank you very much.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Chairperson, I want to start off by saying that the participants here today have proven to us, Minister, that indeed, Fridays can be a working day in Parliament. So, in future we will take a leaf out of the book of what happened here today about the youth and will

arrange programmes right until 4 o'clock in the afternoon of Friday. In that way, we will be able to deal with all these recommendations and challenges that have been given to us.

Let me start off by, firstly, thanking the Speaker of the National Assembly, the hon Didiza, who is still here in Parliament. She is having a number of engagements in her office. She has followed some of the proceedings with interest and she has conveyed her well wishes to everybody who has been here today. Those who must travel back home must travel safely. In absentia, the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, of course my colleague and cochairperson of the Steering Committees on Sectoral Parliaments, the hon Govender, thank you for your presence.

I also want to once again express a word of gratitude to Minister Chikunga. We know that there are other sectoral parliaments that will be taking place, that is, the Women's Parliament, the Children's Parliament, the Disability Parliament and the Men's Parliament. Our offices will collaborate with one another. We don't need to compete with the executive, or the executive do not need to compete with Parliament. We can collaborate. When you collaborate, you achieve success. Thank you very much, hon Minister. Let's give the Minister a round of applause again. [Applause.]

Hon Minister, the staff in your office led by Nompendulo Mkhathshwa has been very helpful. We look forward to her further assistance as well. The Secretary to Parliament also joined us earlier, as well as the Secretary to the National Assembly, Mr Xaso, who is the sponsor of the Youth Parliament. There is a number of support staff and services from Parliament that have made today possible, both from the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces. We, especially in the steering committee, emphasised on the need to advertise and spread the message of the Youth Parliament that was going to happen. The parliamentary communication services played an excellent role in providing that support. The parliamentary communication services will also make a compilation of the material of what we've done here today and what we have seen, and it will be distributed in electronic form to everyone who is in attendance.

The members of the steering committee, it was quite a unique situation and opportunity that was created. You can be assured that this won't be the last time that you will be engaged because going towards there is the P20 that will take place here in South Africa, in the Western Cape later this year. There is a specific day that has been set aside for the youth and you can expect to be engaged going forward.

We are also planning a number of online seminars in discussions that will be taking place. So, for those who did not get the opportunity today, surely, that opportunity will be created. If there was any confusion around that, it is a matter that will be attended to.

May I also indicate that at the Youth Day, the P20, those who will be there will have an opportunity to also engage with youth from other countries so that we can share experiences with one another and be aware of the global issues that impact directly on the youth of the world.

In Parliament, in the National Assembly specifically, we have 74 Members of Parliament who are under the age of 40. The Interparliamentary Union uses the age of 40 as the absolute limit for youth representation. If you translate that it is just less than 20% of the members. But if you compare it with some of the other parliaments in the world, the average is only 3% in those countries. Although we are not there where Johayne wants us to be yet where all the grandmothers and grandfathers must retire. May I say I am still safe as far as Johayne is concerned because I am not a grandfather yet. We are doing a lot better than what other countries are doing although a lot more need be done.

There were a number of presenters that tabled papers and made contributions. We want to thank them as well. To our chairpersons of the sessions, we agreed beforehand to say that the two of us are not going to sit here and chair the sessions the entire day. We want to see what happens when younger Members of Parliament are given an opportunity to take that opportunity to come and show us what they really have. Usually, they sit in portfolio committees, and they are not necessarily chairpersons of committees. But hon Chikunga, I have seen a few today. Where is the hon Chirwa? Hon Chirwa, I like the way you said it. It was straight and very strict that you are not going to allow this sitting to degenerate. You were very firm, very firm. I'll remember that. I was afraid that she would go to the next step to invite in the white shirts or the bouncers to remove certain people. But thank you very much.

The hon Breedts said, this is my House, and I am not going to allow this in my House. You may expect that to be involved in some of the other activities of Parliament.

Thank you very much to the representatives of the different political parties, both physically present and those who were online for being here and also enriching us. I think it was a good intervention that was made by one of the chairpersons who said let's give an opportunity to those who are not public

representatives to have their say. Some of the things that we heard after that were absolutely fantastic. Also to the school learners who were here and some of the other sectors who were represented. But we want to emphasise, and the speakers told me just after lunch that we must immediately work on the youth caucus in Parliament to formalise that structure. That youth caucus can be replicated in the provinces and also in the municipalities. So, you have the direct line of that engagement that public representatives have without crowding out the other participants that are there.

The one feature that we need to work on is to encourage in these types of sectoral engagements the youth to use the indigenous languages so that when you speak to the youth, you speak to them in a language that they do understand and relate with. It is something that we must work on and I'm quite sure we will be able to achieve those objectives.

Going forward, the steering committee will have a session where we will evaluate the proceedings since we started working on this project up to today where we are.

But once again, thank you very much. I hope those who are remaining in Cape Town, please, do not miss your flights tomorrow morning when you go back home. For those who are going to travel, please, take care and travel safely. Godspeed

and everything of the best with all your endeavors that you are undertaking. Thank you very much.

The Youth Parliament session adjourned at ____.

UNREVISED HANSARD