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LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



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DRAFT YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

MOHOKARE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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INTRODUCTION

South Africa defines youth as a group of people aged 14 to 35 years, young people living in Mohokare face a number of challenges on a daily basis. According to the New Growth path 2010, the core challenges hampering youth's meaningful participation in the mainstream economy are joblessness, poverty and inequality. These are the challenges hampering the youth in Mohokare not only is unemployment levels among youth high, gender imbalances that have led to inequality amongst men and women in the past also affect youth continuously as there are still many barriers that perpetuate inequality and affect young men and women differently.

There are a number of underlying factors for lack of adequate youth economic participation such as the increase in the population of the working age which is not equally matched by an increase in job opportunities thus leaving a significant number of young people unable to take advantage of the limited available opportunities of sustainable employment.

It is also argued that youth are not skilled and prepared for the labour market and thus unable to be absorbed by the job market the aforementioned affects largely young women, youth in rural areas / peri-urban areas and youth with disability.

The Youth Development Plan must be aligned to the Municipalities Integrated Development Plan (IDP); The Municipality has realised that Youth Development cannot be done in an uncoordinated manner it is clear that Youth Development needs to happen in a holistic way and that public, private and civil bodies need to work together in order to do meaningful youth development.

DEFINITIONS

Youth: The age category as articulated in the National Youth Commission Act (NYC) of 1996. Youth include all people from 14 years to 35 years of age.

Youth development: A process which prepares young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences which help them to become socially, morally, emotionally, physically, and cognitively competent. Positive youth development addresses the broader developmental needs of youth, in contrast to deficit-based models which focus solely on youth problems.

Youth-at – risk: “Youth at risk” can be defined as young people whose background and circumstances places them "at risk" of future offending or victimisation due to environmental, social and family conditions that hinder their personal development and successful integration into the economy and society.

Gender: "Gender" refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women.

1. PROBLEM STATEMENT

- 1.1. Young people living in Mohokare face many challenges, the youth between the ages 15 – 24 are unemployed.
- 1.2. The Municipality recognises the effects of gender imbalances on young women particularly. These imbalances are manifested in fewer jobs for young women, greater pregnancy rate. It is therefore important to consider special programmes for young women with the view to address the imbalances of the past and the gender imbalances prevalent in our society.
- 1.3. The Municipality is committed to the development of its youth, and recognises the important role they play in society.
- 1.4. The Municipality, in partnership with others spheres of government and civil society must ensure that the relevant and necessary interventions are put in place to assist the youth.
- 1.5. The South African Constitution and related legislation and policy, clearly sets out a commitment to youth development. Youth development interventions initiatives are largely driven and coordinated at a national level. However, the National Youth Policy 2009 - 2014 spells out the specific roles of the local government. Most municipalities struggle to adequately implement youth development programmes in their jurisdictions.

Youth unemployment has been characterized by the following

- Low Labour absorption capacity of the economy
- High skill technology labour market
- Available skills vs labour market needs
- Low entrepreneurship levels
- Lack of access to information
- Lack of mentorship
- Inadequate economic growth to fasten employment
- Poor support or facilitation of new entry into job market
- Education and skills

2. OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate young people's entry into the job market and thus work towards reducing youth unemployment levels by providing employment skills, support and training.
- To initiate projects to benefit youth from disadvantaged backgrounds (disabled and young women)
- To promote a uniform approach of youth development
- Increase youth involvement and active citizenship by building the capacity of youth organisations and leaders to become agents in their own development who make meaningful contributions to their communities.

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

(a) The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act Number 108 of 1996

The Constitution is the supreme law of the country that entrenches specific rights, responsibilities and an ethos that everyone in South African must uphold. In the Bill of Rights, specific human rights are guaranteed and these rights and responsibilities guide the inherent rights and responsibilities of everyone, including youth.

(b) Local Government Legislation

The White Paper on Local Government 1998 sets out the broad objectives of local government and thus provides a basis for interaction on issues facing the youth. Section 1.1 on development local government should form the basis of synchronising the effort and initiatives of young women and men.

The developmental role of local government was written into law by the Municipal Systems Act No 32 of 2000, the Municipal Structures Act No 117 of 1998 and the Municipal Finance Management Act No 56 of 2003. These acts set the legislative environment for local government operations, structures and systems and thus provide an important connection for youth development initiatives.

(c) National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Act Number 54 of 2008

The Act provides for the establishment of the National Youth Development Agency aimed at intensifying youth development services and focus. It mandates the NYDA to develop an Integrated Youth Development Strategy for South Africa and initiate, design, coordinate, evaluate and monitor all programmes aimed at integrating the youth into the economy and society in general. The Act further instructs the agency to promote a uniform approach by all organs of state, the private sector and non- governmental organisations to matters relating to or involving youth development.

(d) National Youth Policy (NYP) 2009–2014

The goal of the NYP 2009–2014 is to intentionally enhance the capacities of young people through addressing their needs, promoting positive outcomes, and providing an integrated, coordinated package of services, opportunities, choices, relationships and support necessary for the holistic development of all young people, particularly those outside the social, political and economic mainstream. The SDECD Youth Development Policy enables the City of Cape Town to display a commitment to the National Policy Framework for Youth Development and more specifically to unpack the developmental role of local government.

(e) National Youth Development Policy Framework (NYDPF) 2002–2007

The NYDPF provides the context for the government's youth development approach urging for an integrated, holistic youth development strategy. It also advocates for the values of equity, diversity, redress, responsiveness to the needs and contexts of young people, and an orientation that is sustainable, participatory, inclusive, gender sensitive, accessible and transparent to be consistent in all aspects of the youth development strategy.

(f) African Youth Charter (2006)

South Africa has signed and ratified the African Youth Charter as the charter is consistent with the South African Constitution and nearly all its provisions are in line with the socioeconomic programmes being implemented, or envisaged. The African Youth Charter; which was adopted in May 2006 and endorsed by AU heads of states in July 2006 is a political and legal document that serves as a strategic framework that gives direction to youth empowerment and development at continental, regional and national levels. The charter is in line with the efforts of the African Union (AU) that seek to provide an avenue for effective youth development.

4. STRATEGIC INTENT

4.1. Integrated Development Plan

This plan is aligned with the IDPs Strategic Focus Area of the good governance and administration. The programme for youth development includes career exhibition, youth dialogue, youth entrepreneur workshop, building the capacity of youth, Youth development is integral to all the strategic focus areas of the IDP.

4.2 Integrated Youth Development Strategy of South Africa (July 2011)

The Integrated Youth Development Strategy was developed to “facilitate, coordinate, lobby and monitor the implementation of youth development programmes and policies, as well as initiate and implement strategic projects”. Its vision is of “a seamless, integrated and mainstreamed youth development across public, private and civil society sectors”. For this reason the Municipality’s Youth Development Policy adopts the same principals of the IYDS namely:

- Accessibility – young women and men from diverse backgrounds must access resources and services crucial to their development.
- Holistic – youth development initiatives must encompass all aspects of a young person.
- Integration – different key role players such as government, civil society and the private sector should integrate youth development into their programmes and policies.
- Diversity – youth development interventions must recognise and acknowledge their diverse backgrounds
- Non-discrimination – all youth developments initiatives should not discriminate
- Sustainable development – young people’s assets, potential, capacity and capability must be maximized so that they can respond effectively and efficiently to life’s challenges
- Transparency – institutions and organizations involved in youth development should operate in a transparent and accountable manner.
- Social cohesion – youth development interventions should promote the inclusion of young people as a significant part of societal structures.
- Social protection – different youth development interventions should seek to promote the wellbeing of young people by putting in place measures that seek to protect them.
- Youth Service – young people should be involved in meaningful activities that benefit communities while developing their sense of patriotism.
- Redress – recognize the different ways in which young people have been affected by the injustices of the past.

5. PLAN FOCUS AREAS

5.1. YOUNG PEOPLE’S ENTRY INTO ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Mohokare Local Municipality will implement various programmes to prepare young people for the workplace in an effort to work towards reducing unemployment. Projects will include:

- Work preparation training to aid unemployed
- Career planning and referrals for further training in order to build the skills of youth to be able to market themselves, have projects that will focus on preparing CVs, conducting interviews, understand work ethics.
- Life skills training for at-risk-youth by identifying vulnerable youth from the poorest communities across the Municipality, to provide meaningful life skills to youths that are daily faced with negative challenges.

- The implementation of these skills-building projects will be guided by:
- Research on community needs and challenges.
- Research on business needs.
- Combining hard and soft skills where possible.
- Providing access to follow-up support services or referrals where possible.
- Identifying youths through the councils databases, other sector departments' databases and the Youth Programme's databases of youths that have attended previously skills training.
- Ensuring an equal gender balance between young men and women who participate in these projects so as to ensure that past imbalances are addressed and those young women are able to participate equally and optimally.
- The EPWP programme which seeks to provide short term job opportunities for unemployed through the EPWP project of the Municipality.

5.2 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- Capacity building workshops shall include topics such as sustainability, ownership, exhibition skills, fundraising and project implementation etc.
- Identify positive youth leaders and develop their abilities to be able to engage other vulnerable youths on topical issues and also to get youths involved in public processes that require youth voices, including the IDP processes. The youth leaders will be trained on mentoring and coaching youths that need additional support after having gone through youth programme initiatives and interventions to develop them further.
- The implementation of these capacity building projects will be guided by:
- Outcomes of youth structures skills audits.
- Identifying youth structures/ forums/ networks/ movements, etc. through councils databases, sector departments' databases, structures they have worked with and youth structures that have participated in previous capacity building projects.
- Ensuring an equal gender balance between young men and women who are identified as young leaders as to ensure that past imbalances are addressed and that young women and people with disabilities are able to participate equally and optimally as well as to prepare young women for decision making roles.

5.3 AWARENESS

Create platforms of engagement on topical issues that affect youth. The aim is to raise awareness on a range of issues including the dangers of substance abuse, HIV/ AIDS, etc.

- This will demand partners such as the sector departments and other structures, i.e. substance abuse, vulnerable groups, as well as with Provincial government departments such as Social Development, Health, etc.
- These awareness raising initiatives will include joint awareness raising campaigns, pamphlets on a particular issue, supporting partners in raising awareness, joint 16 June activities, etc.

6. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

- The plan will be reviewed and updated every three years or in light of evidence that indicates that the plan is not meeting its intended outcomes.
- The compilation of annual implementation programme will specify details of targets to be reached with time frames, which will assist in tracking progress on the achievement of plan.

- There shall be quarterly reviews.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

- 7.1. The Programme Implementation Directorate will facilitate and coordinate implementation of the Youth Development plan as soon as it has been approved by Council.
- 7.2. The Directorate will develop an annual implementation programme linked to the desired outcomes of the plan.