



*Nkomazi Municipality*

# YOUTH POLICY



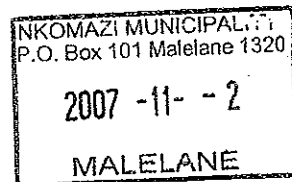
NKM: GCM A096/2007 NKOMAZI YOUTH SUMMIT (N12/2/6)

(005/2007)

30 October 2007

**RESOLVED**

1. That the report on Nkomazi Youth Summit held from 2 to 3 August 2007 be approved by Council.
2. That a program be developed on the issues resolved at the summit.
3. That the Youth policy be accepted by Council.



# **YOUTH POLICY**

## **1. BACKGROUND**

Nkomazi Municipality is known as poverty and under developed area with the highest population located in the rural corner of Nkomazi. Nkomazi has been experiencing economic growth through Agriculture and Tourism. These growth results from the new initiatives on the Tourism Sector that is great potential competitive advantage through the Maputo Corridor as most of our roots are through the N4.

As Nkomazi It is important to focus on the growth legislative frame work mainstreaming youth development into development by implementing youth development policy.

## **2. VISION**

A leading Local Municipality of excellence that empowers the community to prosper through service delivery

## **3. MISSION**

To enhance the quality of life of all people in the Nkomazi Local Municipality through a sustainable developmental system of local government and rendering of efficient, effective and affordable services

## **4. DEFINATION OF YOUNG PERSON**

The term Youth has a range of different meanings and connotations within South African historical, cultural and Political context given the fact that there are different approaches and definitions adopted by the different institutions. It is imperative to develop a more focused definition of a young person with a municipal context we are of the opinion that we define a young person as between 14 to 35 years.

## **5. APPROACH TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN NKOMAZI**

Youth development is an integral part of addressing the challenges faced by the Youth in South Africa in devising policies and programmes for youth development; the Municipality has adopted an integrated way of dealing with youth issues through the IDP.

Understanding the important departure point for youth development that lies in the active involvement of youth, the Municipality must have youth representatives in the IDP Forum and other Municipal structures.

These is not enough Youth Development must be seen as a tool that provides a foundation and mechanism for Youth participation in Socio Economic Development whilst recognizing that young people should champion their own development and not merely be recipients of government services.

Youth Development should be approached from a perspective that encourages a youthful understanding of the processes of governance and provides opportunities for their participation in Local, Provincial, National and International Programmes, e.g. International Labour Ogranisation

## **6. PRINCIPLES AND VALUES**

Youth Development in Nkomazi must take place within a context that is informed y a shared normative framework.

- Development approach

To ensure integrated and holistic youth development services informed by the Youth interests and needs

- Participatory and Inclusive

To ensure youth participation through organized formations

- Self Reliance

Youth Development must be a self empowering process aimed at creating an independent way for the Youth

- Sustainability

Youth Development must not concern only by the immediate but about the future, within a longer term, holistic and integrated approach.

- Non-discriminatory

Youth development must be promoted based on the fundamental human rights through a non-racist approach within the Municipality

## 7. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Locate youth development in a holistic strategy that encompasses political, economic and social dimensions.
- To adopt a sustainable and integrated approach to youth development
- To improve quality of life
- To lobby and advocate for youth development programmes
- To identify priority areas and sectors of possible interventions
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders in youth development.

## 8. STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS ON CHALLENGES FACING THE YOUTH

### 8.1. Education and Training

It is important to ensure that youth under 19 years of age should be fully pre-occupied with education and training and maintain good pass rate and low drop out rate, as well as the early identification of youth at risk as part of a programme for all young people who are illiterate and under-qualified.

As youth we need to formulate a mobilizing strategy of programmes and campaigns of students and teachers for preparations towards matriculation examinations and raised the interest of youth in technical subjects. Communities and Private Sectors should be mobilized to increase shared responsibilities for education infrastructure and investment. One of the critical aspects faced by young people is financial assistance, as Nkomazi Municipality we need to position ourselves to be able to fund the needy young people.

### 8.2. Economic Participation and Empowerment

Normally, youth comprises of about 70% of the unemployed, 46% of the working population and 33% of the self-employed. Youth within the jurisdiction of Nkomazi also contribute to the above

mentioned statistics. Nkomazi has the lowest rate of economy; limited resources based and contribute the least to economic growth as compared to other Municipalities.

It will be advisable to develop a comprehensive economic empowerment strategy for young people, identify youth training programmes that link within the institutional frame work of learnerships within established SETAs

We need to ensure that our growth is linked with development and that the youth is exposed to an assistant by opening opportunities, public-private partnerships should be seen as needs to deliver the strategy for making financial accessibility and SMME and other youth information

Strengthening and broadening funding from Umsobovu Youth fund through sustainable funding schemes and grants.

### **8.3 Health and Social Well being**

The challenge of sustainable youth development and the sound well being of young people is the ability to meet the basic needs of the present generation and to improve their quality of life without destroying the environment or depleting non renewable natural resources, which would inhibit the future generations ability to meet their own needs.

The high incidents and prevalence of STDs such as HIV/AIDS among young people and the vulnerability of this sector of society to future infection, is an issue of concern. An inter-sectoral approach to the realities of STDs and HIV/AIDS need to further strengthened in the context of a comprehensive health for all strategy.

As Nkomazi we must ensure increased equitable access to social security provision for disabled youth. Interventions must be made also on life skill programmes, arts and culture, sports and recreation and access to information through MPCC's and youth centres within our jurisdiction.

### **8.4 Safety and Justice**

It is important to initiate the development of life skills programmes that are developed in order to discourage youth development crime such car hi jack. Identification of young offenders should include exposure to engagement in after care education and training programmes to assist with the implementation or incorporation into society and preventing re-offending.

### **8.5 Social Mobilization , Capacity Building and Advocacy**

Social mobilization, capacity building and advocacy should seek to rally young people behind transformation rooted in the reconciliation and development programme. It is essential to build vibrant civils society organization dealing with youth development under the South African Youth Council. As young people we are expected to put forward the initiatives taken by government in the National Youth service programmes to create youth employment opportunities.

## **9 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Young people enjoy all the rights, responsibilities as legal citizens of South Africa as contained in the Bill of Rights and Constitution. As young man and woman irrespective socio – economic status, gender, disability factors, have the rights to an opportunity to:

- Enjoy our youthfulness
- Participate in policy formulation, decision making and leadership in youth development.
- Peace security and promote human dignity equality and freedom
- Promoting activate participation undemocratic process
- Value, promote and understand the importance of assisting young people in reaching their potential

## **10 PRIORITY TARGET GROUPS**

### **10.1 Young Women**

Young Women who still face particular difficulties in our society, difficulties such as unemployment, discrimination at the workplace of teenage pregnancy and domestic violence abuse

### **10.2 Young Men and Women with Disabilities**

The challenge youth needs specific support and assistance to ensure they have access to education services and opportunities to explore fully to the society. It will also involve greater awareness of challenges faced by the disable youth, the removal of disabling attitudes to ensure access to environment and empowerment of young people with disabilities and representation in organizations.

### **10.3 Unemployed Youth**

Unemployed youth require specific attention to deal with the wide range of challenges and problems they experience in life. It is also important to identify their skills so that they will be utilized in open world of economic opportunities for them to play a pivotal role in the development of local economy.

### **10.4 Rural and Urban Youth**

Youth in rural areas are often more disadvantaged than those who live in urban areas. They have less access to services, facilities, and opportunities for employment than youth in urban areas. These necessities the migration of youth from the poor rural communities to the rich urban areas. The intervention strategy to address the problem is required within the integrated rural and urban development programme.

### **10.5 Working Youth**

The working youth should be mobilized to fight for and enjoy their rights at the work place.

### **10.6 Religious Youth**

For moral regeneration to reclaim its social status amongst the youth, the religious youth should be empowered to work jointly with other role players and stakeholders to promote positive values.

### **10.7 Young People at Risk**

It refers to young people that are in serious danger of being neglected, included here are young people living with HIV/AIDS, teenage mothers, young single parents, young offenders and victims of specific circumstances and realities beyond their little control or no control at all.

### **10.8 School Aged out of School Youth**

Some of young people are out of school whilst their age compels them to be at school. This pronounces itself on frustrations which are experience by these young people. Therefore it is necessary to target this group of young people of extra classes for skills development and exposure

## **11. INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

In achieving the coordination and coherence at policy and implementation levels is a major challenge for Municipality specifically in terms of advancing integrated youth development

Mechanisms to facilitate integrated and coordination in youth development has to focus on four broad categories of institutions and organizations involved in youth development.

- All three spheres of government
- The Municipal legislature to be monitoring and evaluating youth initiatives at a local level
- Independent institutions
- Civil Society has an important role and complementary to play in terms of a coordinated and holistic youth development programme.

## **12. TOWARD INDICATORS**

The development of indicators for monitoring both the general advances made in terms of the improvement of the quality of life of young people as well as the more specific impact of targeted interventions will be done in conduction with the respective initiatives and programmes Departments embark upon in consultation with the Provincial Youth Commission and the local civil society like the Youth Council.

## **13. CONCLUSION**

Since it is important to create a united, non racial, non sexist and prosperous society, in which the youth of South Africa shall promote national reconciliation and unity, build a new patriotism and faster peace, justice human rights culture, and since it is imperative that South Africa recognizes the role that youth played and will still play in society and since the youth in South Africa constitutes an energetic, creative and the largest sector of our population, and given the challenges this sector faced and continue to face; the National Youth Development Policy Framework represents an important milestone towards an integrated and holistic approach to youth development for the advantage of the young women and men specifically and for South Africa as a whole.

We acknowledge that youth development cannot be the responsibility of young alone, all sectors are welcome to pursue the agenda on youth development, and thus we say.

## **FORWARD TO AN INTEGRATED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FORWARD**