



MINISTRY IN THE PRESIDENCY: WOMEN, YOUTH & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: NO.3030

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Ms M D Hlengwa (IFP) to ask the Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities:

Considering that the youth unemployment rate is higher than the national average, and that the Quarterly Labour Force Survey for the first quarter of 2022 stated that the unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 years was 63,9% and 42,1% for those aged 25 to 34 years, while the current official national rate stands at 34,5%, (a) what has her Office done to address the specified statistics and (b) how is (i) the agenda for the creation of youth employment opportunities being mainstreamed to all relevant government departments and (ii) her Office aiding the creation of youth development initiatives that related to the demands of the South African job market? NW3668E

REPLY:

- (a) Statistics South Africa is a government department that derives its mandate from the Statistics Act (Act No. 6 of 1999) to collect and process data on persons and companies for statistical purposes. Its vision is to improve lives through data ecosystems. As a Department, the work done by Stats SA assists us with data to ensure evidence-based planning and targeted interventions. The Department will continue to monitor the youth unemployment rate for both the 15 and 24 year olds and 25 to 34 year olds as measured by Stats SA. However, it is important to note that the majority of the 15 and 24 year olds are at school, hence they fall within the category of the unemployed.
- (b) (i) Yes, the agenda for the creation of youth employment opportunities is being mainstreamed across all relevant government departments. Again, the Department continue to monitor employment opportunities in order to mainstream youth



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employment in the various sectors. The Department works with stakeholders in other sectors in addressing youth unemployment. For example, working with The Presidency, National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the Department of Employment and Labour, as government, we announced the **Presidential Youth Employment Intervention**, which is a comprehensive response to the youth unemployment challenge. We have also launched the **Presidential Employment Stimulus**, which supports public and social employment, and which has created close on 880,000 job opportunities since it was established. A flagship programme of the employment stimulus is the school assistants programme, which has placed 287,000 young people in schools across the country. These young people are accessing meaningful employment while supporting teachers and contributing to positive learning outcomes in our schools. Government also launched the **Future of Work Ambassadors programme**. This programme will focus on improving and modernising the recruitment and retention of youth in the public service. Government is pursuing innovative new ways of linking learning with earning. The National Skills Fund is pioneering the **pay-for-performance skills development** model that will create 8,000 job opportunities for young people in digital skills. Additionally, the NYDA – a public entity reporting to the Department, is coordinating the National Youth Service (NYS). The NYS is being expanded to inculcate in all young people a sense of service and opportunities to learn and earn a stipend. Under the auspices of the Department, the NYDA has already recruited 35 000 young people with a target of 50 000.

(ii) The Department is aiding the creation of youth development initiatives that related to the demands of the South African job market, by regulating the youth development sector. In this regard, the Department developed the National Youth Policy 2030, to guide service providers in providing services that empower young people economically; promote economic transformation; creates jobs, and promote youth entrepreneurship. The NYDA as a youth development implementing agency reporting to the Department, work with other partners to provide young entrepreneurs with the capital; capacity; and networks to grow their businesses. In



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the past financial year, 7,500 young people have received financial enterprise support and over 30,000 young people have received other enterprise support from the NYDA and the Department of Small Business Development.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Nkoana-Mashabane'.

Approved by Minister

Ms M Nkoana-Mashabane, MP

Date 26/09/2022.....