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SUBMISSION FOR NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY BILL :

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PREPARED BY :



COY™

**THE CONGRESS
OF THE YOUTH**

CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE YOUTH SECTOR INPUT TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

BACKGROUND

As we forward this input with regard to the establishment of the National Youth Development Agency we wish to quote one the most relevant clause from the SONA of the Former president His Excellency, Mr. Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki when he said,

“More than at any other time, the situation that confronts our nation and country, and the tasks we have set ourselves, demand that we inspire and organise all our people to act together as one, to do all the things that have to be done, understanding that in a very real sense, all of us, together, hold our own future in our hands”.

South Africa, as a developing country ought to engage on youth development as vigorous as possible and this can be achieved when Government departments have a clear role to play that they discharge on the youth development agenda, Notwithstanding this we have noted the following in the proposed bill:-

- ❖ The proposed Boards that are to be provincially placed are not clarified what role they will play as against the existence of the Provincial Youth Commissions so the possible duplication of the roles is envisaged and might be the initial cause of deep rooted problem before it commences with its work.
- ❖ The provisions of the Bill applying to designated entities are so vague that they are likely to be enforceable and unlawful.
- ❖ The bill is wrongly tagged and should be tagged as section 76 bill where broad consultation would be conducted and further subject it to NCOP. The failure to do this could render passing of the Bill unconstitutional leading to the matter being challenged through courts.
- ❖ We sum up this as a risk that the expedited timetable that is being followed to pass Bill is unlawful because of a failure to allow for adequate public participation.
- ❖ It is not clear whether it is intended that the National Youth Fund that is to replace UYF will be a separate legal entity within the Agency the Agency or whether it would be a unit or a functional area within Agency that is not a separate legal entity.
- ❖ The Umsobomvu Youth Fund is a section 21 company, the Agency will be a statutory body it is not clear whether the loss of corporate status of the UYF will affect the activities of the proposed NYF.

- ❖ For Cabinet role and process; the participation of the Ministry of labour in the process under which the UYF falls is less than being ideal. As much as protocol might dictate otherwise but the Minister of Labour as an Executive Authority and shareholder representative of Umsobomvu Youth Fund so is better placed to be involved in the process.

PROPOSAL

Based on these wise words we believe that the Youth development lies at the core of South Africa's future. Young people constitute majority of the country's population and their growth as active, productive citizens is critical to the sustainable development of the country. To us it is therefore of paramount importance that Institutions that have been put in place by the government as measures to defeat lack of progress to youth development are effective at all times. It is our view that this lack of traceable service delivery on youth matters can only be addressed on the following consideration by the government:-

- ❖ Youth development is a critical planning tool around which government and its social partners should rally around to achieve tangible deliverables on the youth development agenda. This should find expression in all spheres of government in order to deliver broad beneficiation to Young people.
- ❖ In the proposed National Youth Development Agency we say Capacitate and Strengthen it with capacity required to measure youth interest and programmes, i.e. avail more resourced capacity to Provinces as they are spheres within which most young people rely for development and provide administration personnel enough to execute the task awaited.
- ❖ Provide the proposed Agency with powers of championing, coordinating and implementing youth development as well as powers to enforce youth development prioritization across all government departments and do away with mere lobbying and this will replace that National Youth Commission that had had to do overtime with little cooperation from departments on youth issues.
- ❖ The National Youth Development Agency should also have an intervention measure to specifically be dedicated to youth Micro economic needs which must be loosened to benefit the needy masses of young people be more user friendly and easy to access more especially to those in rural areas this will be against the strain that young people had had to suffer ending up with their entrepreneurial desired shuttered due to a lot of sophisticated requirements.
- ❖ The economic intervention measure must work towards uplifting and helping young people to advance their economic desires BUT this must be visible and find expression the Strategic Planning process as this will ensure integrated coordination and implementation.

- ❖ The primitive, rurality and vastness of some of our provinces is not by any near future to change so the circumstances that are compelling reasons for this call may still arise and we might end up overhauling everyday if this is not considered. It is therefore important that an integrated holistic approach must be adopted by government where youth development will be central to each departmental plans, this will avoid any possible aspect of negating this important area of our society. Most importantly, this approach should outline innovative, varied and multi-sector programs and projects that complement other National initiatives aimed at addressing the structural backlog of economic and social challenges which, invariably, have adverse effects on the economic and social status of our youth.
- ❖ Government must ensure that guaranteed support for laying a basis for sustainable, productive resource investment and distribution for youth development is achieved by the establishment of this Agency.
- ❖ A clear strategy of enhancing co-ordination as well as guiding the building of institutional platforms and systems for implementation, support, monitoring and evaluation of youth development in the country should be formulated as it therefore contributes in creating the necessary environment for sustainable youth development to take place.
- ❖ We believe that people are and should be the centre of government changing system for the better so in introducing the Agency focal areas must be prominent in the integrated plan as this will serve the purpose of ensuring that each sector is given space and individual attention.
- ❖ We propose that Government expedite Local Government Youth Development Framework that must respond to youth development from local level as this is the most critical level where lack of development is clearly witnessed. As a principle matter we then propose that the Agency accounts to youth of South Africa through National Parliament with Provincial Standing Committees for Youth, Gender & Disabled playing involvement in giving assistance, monitoring and advising role. The appointment of the Board must also be appointed by the National Parliament of the Republic.
- ❖ Review Municipal Structures & Systems Acts to take cognizance of youth development as an important area of delivery in order to clear prominence of it for easy delivery
- ❖ In a nutshell this plan is about youth taking on the challenge of defeating youth poverty and underdevelopment. The implementation of this plan will get youth to work hard in improving the present for a well sustained future delivered.

- ❖ We have as this country an obligation to ensure that this situation which has a corrosive effect on the building and sustenance of democracy as it is already beginning to show is defeated as it continues to bring about social instability and conflict. This objective reality imposes a moral and a political imperative for conscious and frontal interventions to promote the integration and mainstreaming of young people in building an alternative social system where inequality does not exist.

Conclusion

The whole notion of a programme for youth development has its foundation in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996.

Although the Bill of Rights does not specifically speak to the youth, it guides all citizens, including the youth, regarding their rights and provides a yardstick for the evaluation of government policy and practice.

Given our history, particular attention has to be given to the socio-economic rights included in the Bill of Rights. These include access to housing, health care, food, water and social security and education. Youth, like all other age groups in the South African population, are affected directly by measures taken to support these rights. The National Youth Commission Act, 1996 recognizes the need "to redress the imbalances of the past and to create a national youth policy aimed at empowering the youth and allowing them to realize their full potential through optimum access to opportunities." As we forge towards this Agency we must do with added dedication and selflessness in ensuring that as we deliver to the youth of our country, we do so in a manner that will unite the young people of throughout the country and make true the statement by the President!! *"that all of us, together, hold our own future in our hands."*

Ikamva eliqaqambileyo lelethu!!!!Bright future is ours!