



South African Youth and Social Transformation

Introduction

1. This document is aimed at assessing and discussion of the challenges facing youth in South Africa and proposition possible interventions, with specific focus on issues such as Youth unemployment and poverty; Social security; substance, alcohol and drug abuse; HIV/AIDS;; transformation of sports and opportunities for youth in the 2010 Fifa World Cup; literacy programmes, and various other areas.
2. The document notes that these issues are interlinked and appeal to broader society, often assuming a racial, class, spatial and gender character.
3. The brief overviews laid on each area identified will serve as a basis for further discussion, resolution and implementation of the programmes agreed in the intensification of social transformation. The document should contribute to the redefinition of youth involvement in the intensification of social transformation in the present conjecture.
4. A thorough understanding and positioning of youth development and social transformation in South Africa requires a proper characterisation of youth in South in the present conjecture.
5. This should be located within the broader effort and determination to better the living conditions of all people. It should always be emphasised that within the progressive mass democratic movement as led by the African National Congress, this is located within and guided by the National Democratic Revolution (NDR), whose primary aim is creation of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and united nation through economic and political emancipation of the black majority and Africans in particular. This entails amongst other things, the attainment of the Freedom Charter visions and aspirations.
6. The African National Congress Youth League perspective on social transformation should certainly be located within and guided by the Freedom Charter visions and aspirations. As the most correct and concise expression of the NDR objectives, the Freedom Charter should remain the torch bearer in the era of reconstruction and development of our communities and creation of a just National Democratic Society.
7. There is no doubt that youth as a sector remains to be part of the most marginal beneficiaries of the democratic breakthrough. This does not mean that we are not appreciative of the gains of democracy, which young people enjoy. There is no doubt that young people have had access to education, economic opportunities and some developments of democracy, yet majority of youth remain excluded, unemployed, super-exploited as casualised and informal workers, and the most vulnerable to diseases such as HIV/AIDS.
8. It is therefore our fundamental responsibility as the ANC Youth League and the broader progressive movement to continue the struggle to realise the aims of the Freedom Charter.
9. Youth should consistently say that in a democratic South Africa the people should govern and share in the country's wealth. We have to say that the doors of learning and culture should be opened. We should indeed call for Land to be distributed amongst those who live in it.
10. This is the struggle we have to engage ourselves in, and because of a changed political environment, build a developmental state, whose primary objective will be construction of a society envisioned in the Freedom Charter. Almost all Developmental

States that have succeeded in the world (in South Korea China, Malaysia, Japan, etc) had a developmental ideology and guideline and ours should be the Freedom Charter.

set developmental objectives and ensure effective implementation and realisation of these. A South African developmental State should have the necessary developmental capacity, buttressed by a sufficiently skilled, motivated and well-remunerated workforce.

Context

11. The main hallmark of South African society and progressive movement are the resolutions of the 52nd National Conference of the ANC in December 2007, which has set as a priority the intensification of social transformation, mainly the provision of quality healthcare and education for all.
12. These arose primarily from the ANC national policy conference in June 2007, which engaged on a variety of issues that were, amongst others, propositioned by the ANCYL. The 52nd national conference of the ANC re-affirmed positions of the ANCYL on most of the issues identified. The ANC national Lekgotla in January 2008 produced a workable and enforceable programmatic mechanism for the implementation of most of the issues resolved in the 52nd National Conference.
13. It is always important to note that in South Africa, youth continue to face the most brutal of social transformation challenges, such as high levels of unemployment, poverty, substance and drug abuse, low success rates in education, and various other challenges. This is one diagnosis which will guide us in finding the most effective remedies to these social and socio-economic challenges.
14. Despite the ANC's successful rejection of a proposed labour regime that sought to casualise, informalise and unprotect youth workers at large scale, youth continue to be the most casualised, informalised and therefore underpaid and unprotected workforce in South Africa.
15. There are notable and plausible interventions and programmes that have been introduced to address the conditions of youth, and such should be continuously reviewed, strengthened and given impetus in the broader struggle to better the livelihoods of all.
16. We should also note that the discussion on social transformation happens within the context of a firm determination to construct a developmental state, with capacity to
17. The Developmental State machinery in the policy outlook and coordination of responsibilities and tasks should be adequate. It is therefore a responsibility of youth to attain the skills, knowledge and expertise in order to play a very critical role in construction of a developmental state as youth stand to be its primary beneficiaries.
18. We should therefore enhance and harness the involvement of youth as both benefactors and beneficiaries of development, where those who are empowered should ensure that the less empowered benefit from the knowledge and expertise they have gained through empowerment and involvement in socio-economically benefiting activities.
19. It is within this context that we should discuss, understand and advocate for the issues that affect young people. The discussion on social transformation should therefore be located and understood within a context of a broader commitment and determination to build a caring society.
20. In broader terms, it should be noted that whilst well intentioned, the impact of the legislated and governmental youth institutions and formations have not succeed in mobilising the whole of society in the conception and implementation of an Integrated Youth Development Strategy.
21. With certain levels of relative progress, the extent at which the National Youth Commission and related formations impacted on, advocated and campaigned for youth development was not sufficiently responsive to the challenges of young people. The Umsombomvu Youth Fund has made minimal interventions to dent youth unemployment.
22. Despite these challenges, youth remain the most aspirational section of society, and thus in continuous need for more knowledge and information to enhance and harness their capacity to realise their aspirations. Politically, youth constitutes the most radical and militant section of society, and in most

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- instances in the forefront of struggles for the betterment of society through mobilisation of communities in struggles and advocacy for the provision of housing, electricity, sanitation, water and various other basic services.
23. This characterisation of youth is not an attempt to homogenise South African youth, but an acknowledgement that through their location in society, these characteristics constitute the primary features of young people.
 24. The characterisation rather notes the racial, class and gender dimensions of the challenges facing youth, with blacks, the working class and female youth facing the most daunting of challenges as opposed to their counterparts. Whilst attempted, efforts to lobby government, business and civil society to intensify youth development programmes have not adequately responded to the major challenges facing youth.
- Youth Unemployment and Poverty**
25. The most immediate and scathing challenge to young people in South Africa is unemployment and poverty, which are in most instances interlinked. Lack of income for households and individuals continue to be the major contributor to high levels of poverty.
 26. Subsequent Labour Force Surveys (2005; 2006 and 2007) point to the reality that almost always, youth constitute more 70% of the working age population that is need of jobs and cannot find them.
 27. This is due to a variety of reasons, prime being the inability of the South African economy to absolve the entirety of its workforce. The continued reliance of the South African economy on the extraction, production and exportation of primary commodities and importation of virtually all consumer and finished products worsens the levels and degree of unemployment.
 28. Another major contributor to youth unemployment is the shortage of skills, expertise and knowledge amongst young people to could effectively contribute in the production, exchange and consumption of goods and services (economy).
 29. The shortage of skills is attributable to a variety of issues and factors ranging from minimal capacity of the broader education system to produce skilled and knowledgeable individuals with necessary capabilities to fulfil functions and tasks needed in the economy, State and society; and the systemic legacy of apartheid, which consciously underdeveloped every aspect of black and particularly African society, including on provision of skills and education.
 30. Part of what should constitute sustainable intervention in the fight against unemployment and poverty is effective and sustainable implementation of an industrial strategy, whose primary aim will be diversification and development of the South African labour-absorptive sections of the economy.
 31. The ANCYL should advocate for an industrial strategy which must include increased investment in the processing of natural resources such as minerals, metals and agricultural products, and various other interventions which will lead to an independent economy, not totally reliant on the demand of minerals from international finance capital. This could go a great deal in reversing the dependent features of the South African economy, and set it on a more sustainable, labour-absorptive and developmental growth pattern.
 32. The development and implementation of the industrial strategy should prioritise a deliberate and conscious strategy for local production, as an industrial strategy that is fully reliant on foreign investments might not be sustainable.
 33. This could include a conscious strategy to stimulate entrepreneurial capacity of young people, and provision of effective support for youth enterprises and co-operatives, mainly around the processing and beneficiation of natural products. The NYDA should be positioned to lead in ensuring that young people are involved in productive and developmental economic activities.
 34. The spatial character of an industrial strategy should be given closer attention as a means to avoid a reproduction of the migrant labour system, where almost all young people will flock to major cities seeking economic opportunities. Industrial development should be decentralised across communities and
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regions of South Africa, and given the necessary support to thrive.

35. Another effective intervention in the struggle against unemployment and poverty should be expansion and strengthening of the public service. All spheres of the State should always strive to perform and fulfil its functions at full employment capacity, at all levels.
36. Emphasis should be placed that consistent with the effort and determination to construct a developmental state, training and employment of public servants in health, education, social services, safety and security, administration, justice and various other sectors should be prioritised. This could have a significant impact in sustainably addressing high levels of unemployment and poverty.
37. As an intervention to ameliorate extreme and abject poverty, the Youth League should discuss whether the Basic Income Grant (BIG) cannot be part of the methods to ensure that extreme poverty is eliminated.
38. The social security and development machinery has gained plausible augment from the ANC 52nd national conference resolutions, and such should be insulated as a means to ensure that extreme levels of poverty are eradicated.
39. Within this context, there should be exploration of other viable interventions in the efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. This would include provision of food parcels for families without income, provision of free sanitary towels for females who cannot afford them, and intensification of the programmes to provide free education, healthcare, water, electricity, and low-income housing.
40. Whilst expatiated elsewhere, the need to develop youth's capacity to effectively partake in the production and consumption of goods and services should be expanded. This should be underpinned by removing all barriers to access quality education, ranging from high fees, lack of support, diseases, etc.

Drug, Alcohol and Substance Abuse

41. It does not require rocket science to notice the extent at which the abuse of drugs, alcohol and substances negatively impacts on the struggle to politically and economically

emancipate the black majority and Africans in particular in our construction of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and united South Africa.

42. Drugs, alcohol and substance abuse are in essence a counter-revolutionary feature, which if not curbed in society, could reverse the gains of our revolution. The abuse of these intoxicating substances and alcohol does not only negatively impact the wellbeing of the individuals consuming them, but distorts society and leads to other grave social ills such as crime, rapid spread of HIV/AIDS, poor health, low success rates in education, etc.
43. The society that we are living in experiences serious social ills; these are mainly interlinked and attributable to irresponsible consumption of alcohol and abuse of drugs and substances. In almost all instances, the youth and ANCYL branches know who sells drugs in the communities. We therefore should come up with a strategy to expose the people who destroy our society. This should include mass and effective campaigns against irresponsible consumption of alcohol and condemnation of drug abuse.
44. The ANCYL should further advocate and mobilise for legislative interventions on the trade and usage of alcohol in communities, which must consider banning the sale and trade of alcohol beyond certain hours and on certain days. The legislative interventions should expand to regulating times for opening and closing of the taverns and night clubs. A more radical legislative intervention could be banning the advertising of alcohol through various communication channels, such as television, radio, print media and bill boards. These efforts should be located within the broader efforts and campaigns to dissuade irresponsible consumption of alcohol and curbing of drug abuse amongst the youth.
45. The ANC YL should collaborate with all structures in the Education Alliance and Progressive Youth Alliance to ensure strong regulation and monitoring of liquor outlets within or closer to Institutions of teaching and learning. The trade and consumption of liquor should not hamper the process to provide quality and sustainable education for all.
46. In instances where young people are addicted (hooked into) to alcohol, drugs and

- substances, government should build and increase the capacity of State rehabilitation centers around localities with the aim of renewing addicts back to normal society. The “Sin taxes” should be directed to the rehabilitation programmes.
47. We should utilise various sectors and departments of the State and society, notably social development, education and health to train more youth as counselors to assist in counseling programmes of young people who irresponsibly consume alcohol and abuse drugs. This could lead to effective and sustainable mentorship programmes for those who might be identified as substance abusers, especially from dysfunctional families. At all levels, structures of the ANC YL should form a programme to dissuade abuse of drugs, alcohol and substances, while placing mechanisms and methods to rehabilitate those that have been addicted.
 48. The most effective strategy in the campaign against abuse of alcohol, drugs and substances should be mobilisation of civil society, mainly Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), Trade Unions, Church Groups and Business. This would lead to an effective and sustainable campaign buttressed by a mass support and involvement of all stakeholders in society.
 49. We should particularly support *Ke Moja* Campaign of the department of social services, and ensure that it filters down to all levels of society, and appeals to a wider audience.

Sports, Arts and Recreation

50. Overall, the campaign against the abuse of alcohol should be concurrent to the campaign for the development and support of sustainable recreational activities, which will occupy young people’s free time.
51. The introduction of new sporting codes in particularly poor communities should be intensified, whilst emphasis placed on developing the sporting and creative potential of all youth. A variety of other programmes for young people to develop and explore their creative potential could be realised through formation of Youth, Poetry and Music Clubs, Reading/Study Groups, and various other programmes.

52. State departments, mainly on Sports, Arts and Culture, and sporting associations should be engaged to increase more resources on sports and creative industries to assist in keeping youth occupied with recreational and creative activities.
53. This could include a concerted programme to support the development of Soccer, Netball, Rugby, Tennis, Cricket and broad recreational and creative activities in all communities. This could divert youth from other unhealthy activities such as drugs, alcohol, crime, etc.
54. Another vital intervention to make will be decisive intervention on the transformation of sports to ensure wider inclusivity of majority of the people in various sporting codes, including those previously preserved for certain racial groups.
55. The campaigns for the transformation of sports should be underpinned by primarily two factors: 1) political advocacy for genuine transformation and 2) practical and programmatic interventions. The first component of the campaign should include campaign for inclusivity of all national groups in the selection of National and Provincial teams of previously white sporting codes such as rugby, cricket, hockey, etc and the second component should be underpinned by the campaign for all ANC YL structures and membership to involve themselves in various sporting codes.
56. That the ANCYL encourages and promote OR Tambo games.
57. That school sports should be reintroduced, SRC’s, SGB’s be engaged on this program.

Youth and Crime

58. The ANC 52nd National Conference political report noted:
 “Accordingly, in the past five years the areas with the greatest number of violent crimes were identified as those that are poor and economically depressed. These areas, which account for more than 50% of violent crime in South Africa comprise only 169 police station-areas out of 1 136 police station-areas in the country. The socio-economic profile of these areas is similar. There are few recreational facilities. Unemployment is high. There are many dysfunctional families. There are many

shebeens and other alcohol outlets and the levels of substance abuse are very high. Therefore, the objective of our government's Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme is also aimed at combating crime".

59. It appears from this observation that the involvement of communities and youth in criminal activities is largely a consequence of various other socio-economic realities. Youth should strive to fight against crime and ensure that our communities are safe.
60. The ANCYL should particularly be at the forefront of forming and leading Community Safety Forums. In his closing address to the 52nd National Conference, President Jacob Zuma called "on all ANC branches to actively lead, champion and facilitate crime prevention strategies". He particularly said that "we had street committees before. If we were able to defeat vigilantism and the apartheid system, what can stop us from defeating this ugly factor that has tainted our democracy?"
61. This should certainly guide all young people in the intensification of the struggle and fight against crime. We should however emphasise the need to expand our Safety and Security campaign to advocate for proper and effective rehabilitation of prisoners. Correctional services facilities should be corrective.
62. Prisons should not be turned into incarceration and solely punitive institutions, but to rehabilitative and corrective centres with the necessary capacity to ensure that those who are on the wrong side of the law are rehabilitated, mainly those who will subsequently be re-integrated to society. We should therefore launch campaigns to encourage imprisoned youth to study and attain certain skills as part of the corrective measures.

2010 Fifa World Cup

63. The ANC YL and all progressive youth formations should ensure that the primary beneficiaries of the 2010 Fifa World Cup are young people. We should engage all relevant stakeholders in the preparation of the World Cup event to prioritise youth (Youth enterprise and co-operatives) in issuing of services and goods. This could include setting strict methods of ensuring

that the printing and publishing of all 2010 Fifa World Cup paraphernalia is reserved for youth enterprises and co-operatives. This could set many of youth enterprises and co-operatives on a sustainable basis and give them sufficient capacity for reproduction over time.

64. Despite the economic benefits which South African youth will attain from the 2010 Fifa World Cup activities, they should host to the people who will visit South Africa for the World Cup activities.
65. Progressive youth formations should be at the forefront of dispelling fears expressed about crime levels in South Africa by ensuring that all visitors are taken great care, safely entertained and that safety and security for all is essential. Young people should be mobilised to ensure that the 2010 Fifa World Cup is a success and take part in the provision of services for all the soccer-loving people who will descend to South Africa for the Soccer event.
66. ANCYL should encourage youth to learn foreign languages franchise, Spanish and Mandarin.
67. Encourage youth to introduce cheer group leaders program that will participate in 2010 soccer cups.

Literacy programme

68. Despite the schooling programmes that are already existent, we should find a way to involve young people in literacy programmes either as benefactors or beneficiaries. The recently introduced *Kharigude* (led by the Department of Education) Literacy Campaign should be given practical sense by all ANC YL structures and transformed into a national programme, which involves everyone, not government only. We should particularly emphasise the role certain sections of youth can play as benefactors of Literacy Campaign, within the *Kharigude* and National Youth Service (NYS) framework.
69. For instance, many Universities operate students' supported winter and Saturday school programmes, which reach out to number of learners, although not all who need such programmes. Whilst these have been substantive and plausible, they have indeed not reached a significant number of learners as compared to those who will

need the type of assistance learners require across the country. This is due to a variety of factors, key being the geographic limitations and capacity issues that are associated with the budgetary constraints that characterise many of these students' structures.

70. The geographical limitations pertains to the fact that institutions of higher learning cannot reach out to a larger number of students due to distance, whilst the funding aspect limits these structures' capacity to reach out to a wider and probably most affected communities.
71. Quite concerted, Students Representative Councils and Progressive Youth Alliance (PYA) formations within institutions of higher learning should be encouraged to enhance and make more viable the operations of charity, volunteer and community development students' organisations and winter and Saturday schools programmes, whilst campuses that do not have such programmes are encouraged and assisted to set up such programmes.
72. The PYA formations could further find means to generate funds specifically for the enhancement of these programmes and projects through provision of training programmes and injection of funds when and as needed. Another option could be mobilisation of funds allocated for NYS to be utilised in the intensification of literacy campaign.
73. A vital programme the Youth League should campaign for is the Computer Literacy Campaign. One objective reality is that youth are presently living in the era of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), such that computer illiteracy is almost similar to illiteracy in general. This should be curbed through a conscious programme which must include State and private sector interventions in the provision of facilities and capacity to sustainably facilitate and develop youth usage of ICT. This would also contribute in closing the digital gap and the gap between poor schools and higher education in South Africa, therefore guaranteeing improved success rates of disadvantaged students in higher education.
74. The literacy programmes should be expanded to benefit the whole of society on a variety of fronts and the ANC Youth League

structures should foster and advocate for increased literacy campaign on the following areas:

- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Legal studies (Human Rights Awareness Campaign)
- Health issues (Hygiene and preventive health)
- HIV/AIDS Awareness
- Basic Financial Management, Accounting and Marketing
- Business Plans Development
- Computer Literacy.

75. These should be given practical and programmatic coherence, advocated for and implemented in our determination and efforts to build a caring society, whose inhabitants will enjoy maximum political and economic emancipation.
76. There should further be efforts to build a strong Education Alliance at all levels, comprising of all progressive formations in education, to intensify the campaign for the provision of quality education.

Youth and Housing

77. Young people in South Africa are dissuaded from independent ownership of property for a variety of reasons, which include high costs of property, the dependency phenomenon and sentiment established amongst youth that property ownership is a preserve of adults.
78. This pattern should be discontinued as we explore a variety of interventions, including the resolutions of the ANC 52nd National Conference, in ensuring increased housing and property ownership by South African youth.
79. This should happen within the broader transformation of housing allocation in South Africa, particularly around the development of Integrated Human Settlement Strategy, which should help in the deracialisation of communities and blur the resource allocation and service delivery gap between wealthy and poor communities.

HIV/AIDS

80. Overall, our target as adopted by the 22nd National Conference in 2004 to achieve a 0% infection rate by 2014 amongst youth should be maintained. We should particularly expand the ANCYL HIV/AIDS Campaign to include

the broader movement of discouraging multi-sexual relationships amongst young people.

81. Youth League structures at all levels should be at the forefront to confront the reality of promiscuity as a fashionable practice amongst young people. The Youth League should openly condemn multi-sexual relationships amongst its members and all youth whilst intensifying the broader campaign for the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The Youth movement should equally be mobilised to advocate for treatment and care of those infected with HIV.
82. Care and support – ANCYL to promote facilitate that are there in the communities, which deals with those people who are affected or infected by this pandemic.
83. The homebasecares and hospice facilities be utilised to assist our societies. The youth league members be encourage to participate as lay counsellors, peer groups and caregivers.

The National Youth Service Programme (NYSP)

84. The broader conceptual framework on the National Youth Service Programme (NYSP) can be traced back to as early as the 50th Congress of the African National Congress in Mafikeng in 1997. Then, the NYSP was located as an intervention to build patriotism through greater involvement of youth in the creation and construction of a new nation.
85. Government launched NYS is August 2004 to engage young South Africans in community service activities in order to strengthen service delivery, promote nation-building, foster social cohesion & to assist youth to gain occupational skills necessary to access sustainable livelihood opportunities. NYS seek to give further meaning to the Constitutional principle of citizens' rights & responsibilities. It offers youth an opportunity to express their civic responsibilities in a structured manner.
86. In the NYS Green Paper & the draft NYS White Paper, the following VISION was articulated: "To provide a long term & effective means of reconstructing the South African society through physical rehabilitation, reconstruction of community resources as well as rebuilding the fabric of communities. The National Youth Service

will enable young people to promote the spirit of nation-building by inculcating a sense of service culture, a common appreciation of nationhood & ensuring integrated youth development through service & learning activities." This has not find an effective and sustainable practical meaning as the National Youth Commission (NYC), the Umsombomvu Youth Fund (UYF) and government department could not establish a coordinated and integrated programme in all spheres to ensure that this objective is realised. It should be emphasised that the NYS is not a programme for government department and private sector to utilise young people as reserves of cheap and free labour.

87. The under-construction National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)¹ should ensure that the primary objectives and scale of the National Youth Service Programme is implemented through mobilisation of all sectors of society behind its vision and framework. This should happen within the broader mandate to build a coherent and united nation, whose youth are aware of their rights and responsibilities. It is certainly within this context that the NYSP is given impetus and realised in the betterment of society and livelihoods.

Building Social Cohesion

88. The efforts to ensure that the objectives and aims propositioned above are realised reside in a conscious effort amongst the youth to build social cohesion, as part of constructing a single, independent and united nation. Over the years the lives of all young women and men have been influenced by the conditions and dynamics of apartheid. Many young men and women suffered as a result of the denial of basic human rights, sustainable only through the use of violence and force of the apartheid system. Apartheid generated a form of continued structural violence toward young people through poverty, inferior education and the denial of basic services. They fostered these odious phenomena after dividing the African population to rule effortlessly.
89. Fundamentally, apartheid as an ideological outlook rested on the fragmentation of the black majority and Africans in particular, into small rival tribal and ethnic groupings, divisively called nations. So the broader aim was conscious creation of small nations

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- within a broader South African nation, mainly as a means to demobilise common opposition and struggle against apartheid oppression, suppression and super-exploitation. It therefore becomes the responsibility of the post democratic breakthrough youth to build a single, coherent and united nation, which will overlook reactionary ethnic and racial particularism.
90. Efforts to demobilise ethnic and racial mobilisations for political purposes should constantly be encouraged, whilst all efforts to build a single nation hoisted, harnessed and enhanced. The recently proposed recital of common message (pledge) in all South African schools and amongst youth could play a significant role in nation building. The pledge should be recited in almost all gatherings of young people, including meetings of the ANCYL.
 91. Today young women and men still struggle with the legacy of apartheid. To obtain a good education, maintain physical, mental and spiritual well-being, access health services, and pursue meaningful employment remains a fundamental and constant struggle.
 92. Young people in the post democratic breakthrough are still seen as a threat to society and its values, but they are themselves threatened. They are the people or generation which should improve inter-racial and inter-ethnic relations in the South African society in general.
 93. Nation building should primarily be the main objective of all youth formations, partly as a means to squash any possible ethnic or racial tensions and conflicts, which characterised almost all post colonial multi-ethnic African societies and States.
 94. The ANCYL should envisage a future for all young women and men in South Africa which is free from racial, tribal and gender discrimination in promoting a democratic, united, peaceful and prosperous society where young women and men can enjoy a full and abundant life enabling them to become active participants in activities which fulfil their potential, hopes, dreams and ambitions and are able to participate fully in economic, social, cultural and spiritual life. The League should in this instance strive for interrelationships and interdependence of all realms and kindred in our community.
- National Youth Development Agency**
95. Whilst expanded on a separated document, it is vital to highlight that despite the politics that flew and swung around the establishment of a National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the noticeable and regrettable schism that existed between certain government departments and South Africa's youth, the NYDA should be given practical coherence and established to lead and guide youth development.
 96. The establishment of the NYDA was first resolved by the ANCYL 22nd National Congress in 2004, affirmed by the ANC NGC in 2005, endorsed and affirmed by the National Youth Convention and YCL 2nd National Congress in 2006, recommended for resolution by the ANC National Policy Conference in June 2007 and eventually resolved by the ANC National Conference in December 2007. Parliament has set as one of its priority programmes in 2008, the legislation of the NYDA.
 97. Whilst substantive expatiation has not been given on the character the NYDA should structurally and programmatically assume, there is a broad understanding that it should lead to the merger of the legislated National Youth Commission (NYC) and Umsobomvu Youth Fund.
 98. Another aspect that emerges out of the understanding of the NYDA is that it should be autonomous from any direct influence or micro-management by government, whilst addressing all issues concerning youth development in an effective, efficient and integrated manner, whilst rallying and advocating support for the implementation of an integrated youth development strategy.
 99. These are certainly plausible principles of a youth development structure, mainly the fact that it should be underpinned by relative autonomy, effectiveness and efficiency in driving an integrated youth development programme.
 100. Whilst a substantive, clearer and concrete expatiation of the roles, responsibilities and tasks should be given serious attention, the below should underpin the NYDA's existence and sustenance:
 - Monitor, lead, guide and facilitate Youth policies in all spheres of society (inclusive of government (at all levels),
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judiciary, business and corporate sector, parliament, etc.

- ❑ Conceptualise and contextualise youth development programmes government and the NYDA should implement.
- ❑ Constructively engage with government policies and programmes to ensure their responsiveness to the needs and aspirations of youth.
- ❑ Set up and maintain Youth Advisory and Information Centres (YAICs) in all Local Municipalities.
- ❑ To spearhead, facilitate and monitor the implementation of the National Youth Service Programme.
- ❑ To coordinate and lead the Inter-governmental and inter-departmental Committees on Youth Affairs.
- ❑ Research, develop and publish an annual Status of the Youth report, detailing the challenges and opportunities young people in all sectors of South African society.
- ❑ Provide Development Finance to youth entrepreneurs and co-operatives. This should include provision of training, development and support of youth entrepreneurs and co-operatives.
- ❑ To grant funds to Civil Society Organisations for the purpose of meeting the developmental needs of poor communities;
- ❑ To strengthen the institutional capacity of Civil Society Organisations and structures for long term sustainability;
- ❑ Facilitate and promote job creation and skills development among the youth of South Africa, including issuing of loans to Co-operatives and SMMEs.
- ❑ Mobilise funds and resources (including through investment) and support for youth development initiatives and activities in SA.
- ❑ Coordinate Youth Commemoration and Celebration Activities.

101. In its fulfilment of these functions, the NYDA should indeed ensure seamless integration of youth development and not allow space for parallel and uncoordinated concurrent functions of federal structures in Provinces. This could avoid a situation of multiple responses to the common challenges facing youth across provinces.

102. Essentially, the new structures should not be located within the Presidency, Premiers' Offices or certain departments in government, but should be structurally and operationally independent. A desirable phenomenon would be a NYDA that holds its provincial governments and other stakeholders in youth development accountable and vice versa and avoiding a situation of concurrent uncoordinated functions. Youth development should neither be federalised, nor ghettoised in various provinces and municipalities, but integrated, deriving a common mandate and programme from the NYDA.

Conclusion

103. The intensification of social transformation lies in the essence of building sustainable livelihoods for young people and society at large. This happens through conscious programmes and advocacy by all youth formations. It should be the priority of the ANCYL and all progressive formations to ensure that young people and the rest of society benefit from the collective efforts and determination of social transformation. This should not divert us from the determination and effort to create a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic, independent and united nation whose primary principle shall be human solidarity and collective social advancement.

Footnotes

¹ The details and proposed functions of the NYDA are detailed in a separate document.

DRAFT DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON Education and Health Campaigns

Introduction

1. Flowing from the discussions at the 52nd national conference and the January 8 statement on the occasion of the 96th Anniversary of the ANC; Education and Health have been put back at the centre of the agenda for social transformation. These are critical in ensuring that we continue to grow the economy and fight poverty in whatever former it manifest itself. Furthermore, it is critical in realizing the goal of a “**Better Life for All**”.

Context

2. Informed by the above challenges as the ANCYL, we have to ensure that decisions on the transformation of our society are implemented. This is important in as far ensuring that we realize the goals of the National Democratic Revolution (NDR), that of building a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous society. This is our conviction because we are custodians of the aspirations of the youth of South Africa.

Education

3. [Therefore] Education and Health in main constitutes what we have come to accept as key drivers of social transformation. Young people as the future must receive quality Education that is free, dynamic and compulsory. The realization of this noble goal is informed by what is enshrined in the Freedom Charter that, says; “The Doors of Learning and Culture shall be opened. The ANCYL therefore welcomes the decisions of the taken at the 52nd National Conference on Education which says;
4. Transformation of Higher Education, with mergers having taken place four years ago, we are still faced by challenges of equity and redress. Black and African students (in particular) are still excluded from accessing higher education, which remain our greatest challenge as the ANC YL. It is an uncontested fact that Historically Black Institutions (HBIs) are still faced with challenges of survival

whilst those Historically White Institution (HWIs) are growing fast particularly after they have engulfed tiny little black institutions to oblivion, to enhance their transformation grand standing.

5. Education is the greatest investment that a nation can make to its young people, as we are the future. Funding remains a key stumbling block in attaining an educated and skilled nation. As it relates to subsidies to schools and institutions; bursaries for students and remuneration for teachers.
6. An old discussions on the legislative provision about Institutional autonomy and Academic Freedom in institutions of Higher Learning remains relevant in this day and age, it is these provisions that have allowed universities’ managements to our universities like fiefdoms and personal playground..
7. The Transformation of curriculum in our universities still needs to happen. We have said in the past that the country needs a curriculum that is responsive to both the economic imperatives and community development demands.
8. We need to work towards the establishment of ANC Education and Health Desks at all levels and actively participate in such structures, which will include initiating and participating in ANC led community Education Forums; part of our programs would be ran through them, which will involve participation of the community.

Peoples’ education for peoples’ power

9. We need to develop an awareness campaign on the NO FEES SCHOOLS and play a role in identifying some of the schools that also need to part of the program. Encourage our members and ANC members who have kids attending in public schools to be part of school governing bodies, to ensure that our schools are running properly and efficiently; and that government policies are

implemented without fail. We really need to begin to realize our vision of participating and strengthening organs of peoples' power.

10. ANCYL and COSAS need to build a strong partnership with SADTU; a partnership for peoples education, which will agree on a contract for **Intensive Learning and Teaching campaign**. As part of the campaign, we need to re-adopt the code of conducts of SADTU and COSAS for the purpose of enforcing discipline in our schools. It is our responsibility to make sure that the non-negotiable as pronounced in the January 8 Statement, which are "to be in school, in class, on time, teaching, no abuse of learners and no neglect of duty are implemented. And they also apply to learners to be in class, in time and learn.
11. The partnership should develop a **National Life Skills and Career Guidance program**, where learners shall receive much needed life skills and career guidance and support from experts, which will include ANCYL members.
12. ANCYL needs to establish a massive **National Mentorship Program** that shall play a role in mentoring and motivating learners. It shall also play a role in **National Life Skills and Career Guidance Program** as the spine and its anchor.
13. We need to encourage the formation of Alumni Associations for all our township and rural schools, to offer financial support to schools and also to strengthen the mentorship program and further deepen the intensive learning and teaching campaign.
14. Jointly with COSAS, launch the campaign of making history and political education a compulsory subject in our schools; that will assist in producing a patriotic citizenry.
15. Jointly with COSAS spearhead the re-launching of schools sports in all our township and rural schools. This should involve coaching skills to enhance a professional approach to schools sports. It is our belief that schools sports my play a role in developing new talent in all sporting codes for the country.
16. Jointly with COSAS, campaign for the building of school halls, libraries and sports grounds in all our township and rural schools.

The communities may also use these facilities over weekends and public holidays.

17. Jointly with COSAS, initiate a campaign on civil education, as it relates to voter education and our rights and obligations as citizens of the country.

From ivory towers to peoples universities

18. Jointly with SASCO campaign for the Right to Learn for the underprivileged students, campaign for more funds to be availed to NFSAS, as central body to fund students. We need to lobby private sector, banking sector and government department to avail to the central body and coordinated by NFSAS. We need to also lobby for a strong ANC YL and student movement representation on the NFSAS board, to have a direct influence on the policy direction of the NFSAS. Whilst we lobby the department of education to agree and implement a capping of fee increments.
19. Included in the Right to Learn, are demands for a conducive environment to study, clean and safe halls of residence; cafeteria with affordable nutritious meals; well equipped libraries and laboratories; well running student development departments, assisting with tutorials and extra classes to curb high failure rate and all other psychosocial problems faced by students. Campaign for alternative student services to offer affordable services like second hand bookshops.
20. Lobby the department of education for more subsidies for our universities in particular "essential black universities like your University of Limpopo, University of Forte Hare, Unizulu, Walter Sisulu University, UniVenda, which have produced a lot of our progressive and successful professionals. Our interest as the ANC YL is the continuous production of a strong black intelligentsia, who shall advance and defend the revolution for years to come.
21. We still need to campaign for the transformation of all universities, so as the student and staff outlook reflect the demographics of our country and to meet equity and redress targets. We need to also lobby for the reintroduction of the **National Admission Office**, to assist the state to influence the admission patterns in our universities.
22. We need a developmental state that will

be able to direct transformation of Higher Education not leaving the task to vice chancellors of Universities and University councils. Ministers' appointees must be held accountable to the ANC. We also need to lobby for our members with expertise to be in University Councils.

Health for All

23. The second important issues, is that of Health, as the ANCYL we believe that a healthy nation will lead to a productive nation. The provision therefore of health services in our country must be in such a way that we realize this noble goal; wherein primary health is prioritized. The manner in which education and health services is delivered has an impact in the development of our society and most importantly the Youth. There is an outrage about matric results every year, escalating number of teenage pregnancy, growing number of students who drop-out from higher education institutions without attaining qualifications, increasing number of new HIV/AIDS infections.
24. The HIV/AIDS Pandemic remains a big problem for us as the ANC YL and broadly as the country. Young people are continuously infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, it is thus imperative that we undertake a huge campaign to raise awareness, using strong messages and real-time awareness tactics like touring hospital wards where those infected are lying. **Our target audience should mainly be teenagers as young as thirteen.**
25. Combined with **HIV/AIDS Awareness campaign**, should be sexual education, which shall include education about contraception and sexual transmitted diseases. The mentorship program must also play a role in this campaign. Coin a campaign around the condom, popularize its use and ensure it is widely distributed and are easily accessible at all times in public places. **A one Round one Condom Campaign.**
26. Jointly with CBO's, initiate and/or support existing **home-based care** for the bed ridden and terminal ill patients with HIV/AIDS. And initiate and /or support existing support groups.
27. Jointly with CBOs support a campaign to highlight the plight of children led households and also assist them to access all the basic

services like social grants, psychological support, health and education.

28. Jointly with CBOs **campaign for ARVs** to be made available to all those who need them and encourage those infected with low CD₄, to use them. As they have been found to reduce the morbidity of HIV/AIDS tremendously. And also promote all foodstuffs that have been found to boost the immune system as part of a comprehensive strategy to deal with the disease.
29. Strive for de-stigmatize HIV/AIDS by encouraging young people to test and disclose with leaders of the ANCYL at all levels volunteering to test and disclose their status.
30. All these campaign must be part of the ongoing National Awareness campaign, which will include **media blitz** (posters, t-shirts, stickers, condoms).

Youth friendly health services

31. We need to lead a campaign against substance abuse; part of the campaign should include calling for restriction in terms of the trading hours in particular a ban on selling liquor on Sundays. We also need to campaign for the ban of advertising alcohol. A broad awareness campaign on the effects of alcohol and drugs. Also expose those who are involved in drug trafficking and those who are selling drugs.
32. Encourage youth representation on hospital and clinic boards, to enable young people to raise their issues as it relates to health services to young people in that particularly clinic or hospital.
33. Jointly with the health department, initiate a National Campaign on Contraception as part of the broader strategy to deal with HIV/AIDS AND
34. In the view of many backstreet abortions that also lead to serious morbidity and mortality, the ANCYL needs to popularize the **free government service for Termination of Pregnancy** and also encourage that this service be widely available (public-private partnership might be an option), be friendly with enough counseling and encouragement for usage of condom and/or contraception. Expose all the illegal institutions performing this type of service. The Termination of

Pregnancy ACT of 1996 and its amendment of 2007 were passed to make this service available for free to everyone.

35. Also campaign and raise awareness about **health lifestyles**, about dangers of cigarettes and alcohol, the importance of annual medical check ups, keeping fit with regular physical exercises and training. Also assist health department to educate young people about lifestyle diseases and diseases that are inherited such as hypertension, diabetes, cervical cancer, prostate cancer.
36. Promote a campaign for all young women to have a pap smear done as early as possible when they are sexual active. And support all campaigns that are raising awareness of all diseases that affect our South African society.

Conclusions

The purpose of this document is to spark a debate on the programmatic approach to the above priorities. We need to emphasize our strong message of going beyond rhetoric and responding a call to unity in action.