



Towards an Integrated, Activist Youth Development Strategy and Agency

Introduction

1. The 52nd National Conference of the ANC resolved that “a National Youth Development Agency that will ensure seamless integration, sustainability and responsiveness to the demands and aspirations of South Africa’s youth is established through the merger of the National Youth Commission and Umsobomvu Youth Fund, This should be effected during the course of 2008”. This resolution brings to rest the discussion around the institutional framework and structures that should underpin, guide, monitor, enhance and advocate for youth development in South Africa.
2. This serves as a concrete and coherent overview of what should constitute youth development in South Africa, and how the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) should be shaped to ensure seamless integration, sustainability and responsiveness to the demands and aspirations of South Africa’s youth.
3. Without any level of conceit, the overview essentially propositions and presents a coherent, concrete and correct way forward on what should constitute youth development programmes, tasks, projects and institution in South Africa.
4. For such task, the overview notes and considers youth development statutes, programmes, perspectives, policy frameworks, and structures that have been introduced, experimented, implemented and succeeded or otherwise, to realise youth development in the past 14 years.
5. For coherence of an overview this type, the following areas shall be given specific attention, expatiate and proposition new dimensions:
 - National Youth Policy (NYP)
 - National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)

- Integrated Youth Development Strategy (IYDS).

6. The succinct observations, conceptualisations and proposals made here do not detail the essence of the NYP, NYDA, and IYDA, but constitute a basis for further discussions, deliberations, and basis for development of a National Youth Policy, establishment of a National Youth Development Agency and adoption of an integrated Youth development Strategy.

Youth Development

7. In broad developmental terms, youth development is understood here as provision of space, opportunities and support for young people to maximise their collective and individual creative energies to eradicate social ills that afflict the South African society—poverty, hunger, unemployment, disease, environmental degradation, homelessness, ignorance, unemployment, oppression and exploitation, i.e. holistic approach to youth development.
8. A Human Sciences Research Council report on youth development notes that “The essence of this conceptual approach is the acknowledgement that youth development is not only about assisting youth in preparation for their future but also developing the youth in their present state. It also acknowledges the participation of youth in their development, instead of them being the recipients of development initiatives¹⁷”.

Context

9. To proposition and present a coherent and concrete way forward on youth development, there is a conspicuous necessity to note conjectural and objective features of youth development in South Africa. First is the reality that whilst there have been drafts and policy frameworks since 1994, the South

African government and/or parliament is yet to adopt a coherent and concrete national youth policy, which should lead and guide youth development in all spheres of society.

10. Secondly, Parliament adopted the National Youth Commission Act in 1996, which preceded and laid a framework for the establishment of the National Youth Commission, and legislations that set Youth Commissions at Provincial and Local government spheres. Youth Commissions were necessarily established to deal with policy advocacy and channelling development, mainly in government, to address and respond to the needs, challenges and interests of youth.
11. As a conjectural reality, youth in South Africa, as customised by the NYC Act, essentially refers to the population between the ages 15 and 35, despite various conceptualisations that have emerged in certain legislations, government departmental programmes and international treaties.
12. Despite plausible changes that have characterised the first decade of South Africa's political emancipation, youth continue to face the most brutal of challenges, mainly poverty, unemployment, exposure to and partaking in criminal activities, radically low access to education and other social services. Notably, the challenges, problems, needs and deeds that characterise young people are not inconsistent with the challenges the broader South African society and communities face.
13. The succinct overview notes and appreciates the National Youth Policy released (and not adopted by parliament or government) in 2000 (NYP 2000); the National Youth Policy Development Framework released in 2002 (NYPDF 2002); and the Draft National Youth Policy under construction in 2007 (NYP 2007).
14. Vitally, the overview notes and considers the youth political currents at flow and sweeping in South Africa, principally defined by the resolutions of the African National Congress Youth League 21st National Congress in 2004; resolutions of the National Youth Convention in 2006; resolutions of the ANC National General Council in 2005; resolutions of the YCL 2nd National Congress in 2006; resolutions of the ANC Policy and Elective Conferences in June and December

2007; and reflections and programmes of or associated with the incumbent National Youth Commission.

National Youth Policy

A youth policy with a mass support

15. In principle and in a South Africa historically defined by mass, activist and highly prominent involvement of youth in the struggles for national liberation, a youth policy should be underpinned by elements of mass and activist youth involvement. The conception and drafting of a youth policy should necessarily involve majority if not all young South Africans, both organised and unorganised. In essence, youth policy should organically reflect the immediate interests, challenges and needs of young people, not fitted into some bureaucratic, elite roundtables programmes and aspirations.
16. A National Youth Policy should in principle be buttressed by a mass backing and support of young people. Every young person should at least know that there is a National Youth Policy, with certain features that directly or indirectly relate to them. Youth Policy should not be an ordinary and typical government legislation circulated, disseminated and discussed through Internet and high level Summits, and forums. Youth Policy should have and gain the ownership of all young South Africans, and be the Freedom Charter type of document for all South African youth.
17. The organic development of a youth policy could be programmatically realised through effective usage of national and community media, school visits, road shows and mass distribution of pamphlets in communities, sports complexes, entertainment grounds and everywhere young people are found. Importantly, a National Youth Policy should necessarily find the support of youth political and civil society organisations and structures.
18. Various sections of society, including government, labour, civil society and private sector, should also be mobilised to partake in the development of the National Youth Policy. Certainly, the existent youth structures supposed to deal with youth development have the structural and monetary capacity to mobilise popular support for a National Youth Policy.

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19. The call for a massively supported and backed National Youth Policy is not only about commemoration of South African youth historical involvement in popular struggles against oppression, it is about strengthening popular democratic participation in the construction of definitive policies that affect young people.
20. Popular participation in the conception of a Youth Policy will correctly place all youth in civil society, political organisations, corporate sector, public sector, schools, higher education and various other sectors of society to strongly advocate for youth development wherever they exist.
21. The realisation of youth development initiatives and programmes could be significantly harnessed and enhanced through the fact that the Youth Policy is a Charter of all young people. Furthermore, the mass support of a National Youth Policy could significantly strengthen the influence of youth as a sector in South Africa's developmental politics and trajectories, including impacting on budget allocations.
24. There are certainly other systematic, governmental and operational issues that need a deeper analysis in a Youth Policy, not only with the intention to theoretically and statistically appraise, but develop effective, activist, self-sufficient and sustainable programmatic, focused project and policy responses. These issues include:
- Lack of structural and facilities support for youth in sports, recreation, arts and culture.
 - Lack of information and advisory services for majority of young people.
 - Lack of role models and support for youth.
 - Disregarding of youth development by local government structures.
 - Informalisation and Casualisation of Youth in the Workplace.
 - Low economic participation of Youth
 - Inability to rehabilitate youth in the criminal justice system.

Categorisation of Youth in a National Youth Policy

Key and Central Issues for Youth Policy

22. Reflective of what youth in South Africa will raise in the mass consultation and popularisation of the National Youth Policy, the following areas are most likely to arise and the policy should give them a frank analysis:
- High levels of youth unemployment in SA.
 - High levels of youth poverty.
 - High levels of youth involvement in crime.
 - Levels of HIV/AIDS and other diseases
 - Lack of access to education and the inability to complete studies for those who gain access.
 - High rates of exclusion of mainly black youth from Higher Education Institutions.
 - Drug and Alcohol abuse by youth.
23. These issues should not, in a youth policy, just become one of the statistics characteristic and definitive of South African society and communities. They should be given a class content, spatial character and notably the gender and national character. This will assist in the development and implementation of effective policy, programmatic and focused project responses.
25. For effective policy, programmatic and focused project responses, youth categorisation should consider the spatial, national, class and activity aspects of youth in South Africa. Whilst the categorisation in the NYP 2000, NYPDF 2002 and the Draft NYP 2007 should be retained, there should be a further categorisation and targeting of youth based on class, spatial belonging, national background and activities young people are involved in. This should help to guide correct, comprehensive and effective responses and interventions from all sections of society that should relate with youth development.
26. As part of this function, a National Youth Policy categorisation and classification of young people should consider and outline what typifies youth in the following categories:
- Youth in townships; rural areas; cities; and informal settlements.
 - Youth in Schools (pre-higher education).
 - Youth in Higher Education.
 - Youth in the workplace (formal and informal).
 - White youth.
 - Youth in Sports and Recreation.
 - Youth in Arts and Culture.
 - Youth in prisons.
 - Youth in the Public Service.
 - Youth in Political Organisations.

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- Religious Youth.
 - Youth in Business and Corporate sector.
27. Whilst transcendent and overlapping, this format of categorisation can amply guide programmatic, focused project and policy interventions for qualitative youth development.
 28. The predominant categorisation in the NYP 2000, NYPDF 2002, and Draft NYP 2007 identifies and makes mention of young women, disabled youth, rural youth, youth at risk, school aged out of school youth, etc. whilst this categorisation is necessary for certain functions, it does not present the necessary spatial and class character of youth, and when these features are ignored, effective policy, programmatic and focused project responses could be misguided.
 29. One critical factor about this format of categorisation is the fact that amongst these broad and at times overlapping groups, there could be identification of youth who can be benefactors of youth development initiatives and programmes.
 30. A wrong and predominant understanding and conceptualisation of youth development in the past 14 years has been postured to approach youth only as beneficiaries of youth development.
 31. The categorisation and identification of target groups in the NYP 2000, NYPDF 2002 and Draft NYP 2007 somewhat validates the observation that youth development has been primarily and exclusively understood to be about benefiting the most affected, marginalised and vulnerable sections of the youth population.
 32. The role of Higher Education students, youth in Senior Corporate and government positions, successful youth in sports could play as benefactors of youth development is often disregarded in official youth policy positions and frameworks.
 33. Now a youth policy should expansively expand on the roles that certain sections of the youth population could play as benefactors of youth development in South Africa.
- National Youth Development Agency**
34. Despite the politics that flow and swing around the establishment of a National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the noticeable and regrettable schism that exist between government and South Africa's youth, the NYDA should be given practical coherence and established to lead and guide youth development.
 35. The establishment of the NYDA was first resolved by the ANC YL 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 further resolved by the ANC National Conference in December 2007.
 36. Whilst substantive expatriation 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.
 37. 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 departments, 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.
 38. 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.
 39. Hypothetically and practically, the envisaged NYDA should be underpinned and guided also by the following principles:
 - Structural and Operational Independence.
 - Programmatic Capacity and Financial sustainability.
 - Organic Participation.
 - Responsiveness.
 - Democracy.
 - Prosperity.

- Efficiency and Effectiveness
- Transparency and Accountability
- Popular presence and support
- Activism and Involvement
- Nation Building
- Non-racialism and Non-sexism

Structural and Operational Independence

40. Various options exist on how structural and operational independence of the NYDA could be realised, implemented and consolidated.

Option 1:

41. The first option could be an establishment of the NYDA through an Act of Parliament setting its tasks and standing, and outlining how it should be constituted. Whilst publicly funded, the NYDA should not be located in government as a sub-division or department in the Presidency, Premiers Offices, etc.
42. The NYDA would under option be publicly funded, be administratively independent and directly reports to Parliament and possibly the National Youth Parliament, which could be rescued from the counterfeit it presently is, strengthened and given the capacity to analyse and discuss youth development issues.
43. The Act should necessarily ensure that the selection of NYDA Board Members should be as representative and democratic as possible, and/or be made consistent with the appointment process of the Broadcasting Corporation, and various other legislated, yet independent Boards and Commissions, such as the South African Human Rights Commission.

Option 2:

44. The second option could be a conscious establishment of the NYDA through the Constitution, specifically located in Chapter 9 of the South African Constitution. Under this formulation, the NYDA's foundation, independence, and accountability should be consistent with the rules and regulations that guide other Chapter 9 institutions.
45. This could ensure that the voice of youth is autonomously raised, campaigned for and their programmes implemented in an activist, transformational and importantly, consistent with the principles outlined above.

Option 3:

46. The third option is not profoundly dissimilar

from the first option, and somewhat similar to the establishment of a National Development Agency (NDA) kind of structure focusing on youth development and functions underlined below.

47. Under this option, the NYDA would be section 3A statutory organisation, which would be established by a National Youth Development Agency Act of Parliament. The NYDA would be a public entity listed under schedule 3A of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), reporting to the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa through the Minister for Social Development or any other relevant ministry.
48. It should be highlighted that the location of the NYDA in either the Constitution or Parliamentary Act is a politico-legal matter that should require further investigation. Wherever it will be located, the NYDA should be given the scope to be publicly funded, whilst retaining the independence to generate income and revenue for its sustainability, programmes and projects.
49. If its location in the Constitution's Chapter 9 will preclude its independence to generate income, it will then be located within an Act of Parliament, not functionally dissimilar from the Acts that established the NDA (Act No. 108 of 1998).
50. Now, either of the three presented above options will have consequences for existent structures ostensibly dealing with and leading youth development in South Africa, mainly the Youth Commissions at National and Provincial levels, and the Umsombomvu Youth Fund (UYF).
51. The consequences and the structural propositions below are independent of the foundation of the NYDA, meaning that these consequences and principles will apply whether the NYDA foundation is an Act of Parliament or through Chapter 9 of the South African Constitution.
52. The legislative process to discontinue the existence of the National Youth Commission should be concurrent to the process of establishing the NYDA.
53. Provincial Youth Commissions should in this instance not be discontinued concurrent to the NYDA establishment, but will only be

gradually, systematically and cautiously integrated into the NYDA within the first year of its existence.

54. The integration of Provincial Youth Commissions should either result in the formation of correspondent structures in Provinces through Provincial legislations or included in the Constitutional outline of what the NYDA should be; or the NYDA will establish administrative and functional Offices in Provinces to manage, implement and fulfil its programmes in at provincial and local levels.
55. Notably, the new structures should not be located within 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 structures accountable and vice versa and avoiding a situation of concurrent uncoordinated functions.
56. The UYF discontinuation process and integration into the NYDA should also not be an event, but a gradual process, which should not take more than 12 months to complete. The UYF discontinuation and integration process shall be concurrent to the establishment of a Development Finance Division (DFD) of the NYDA, which should be the most effective and efficient division in the provision of development finance, training and support for youth entrepreneurs and co-operatives.
57. The DFD shall initiate other relevant and related programmes in ensuring that young people actively and productively partake in the production and consumption of goods and services, whilst committing to the broader objectives of nation building, democratisation, building the economy and improving the living conditions of all South Africans.

Why phase out the NYC?

58. Observations made by the ANC YL in 2004 are still applicable in 2008, and have been characteristic of Youth Commissions²:
 - ❑ The Profile and standing of national and provincial youth commissions are very low due to weak internal management, lack of adequate resources, ineffective policy and research capacity, poor co-ordination, confusion about roles and tensions in the sector.

- ❑ Inconsistent and disjointed alignments between the national and provincial commissions.
 - ❑ Lack of a comprehensive strategy or plan on how to get government departments to support and implement youth policies and programmes.
 - ❑ Inadequate resources and capacity to initiate effective youth programmes at national and provincial levels.
 - ❑ Absence of a comprehensive action plan flowing from the youth policy (which was not adopted).
 - ❑ A clear lack of public awareness about the role and mandate of the National Youth Commission.
 - ❑ Unable to effectively monitor and evaluate whether government departments are implementing youth programmes.
 - ❑ Absence of constitutional forums for long period thereby undermining accountability of the Youth Commissions to its constituency.
59. Overall, the lack of structural and operational independence for Youth Commissions has had profound limitations on how Commissions, influence, monitor, innovate, evaluate and implement youth development policies, initiatives and programmes.
 60. Despite provision of policy directives on certain programmes such as the National Youth Service, the NYC has almost inherently lacked programmatic capacity to spearhead, guide and lead youth development programmes in an effective, efficient, productive and sustainable way.
 61. The legislative limitation for the NYC and PYCs to implement limits their broader mandate to effectively address youth development issues in governance and other sectors of society.
 62. Now the challenges characteristic of the NYC and Provincial Youth Commissions are systemic and structural, such that no amount of internal adjustments will completely erase them.
 63. Whilst at certain instances this could have contributed, it is certainly not a consequence of Youth Commissioners' individual and personal capacity that the NYC and PYCs have not been able to effectively, efficiently, productively and sustainably addressed

issues of youth development. It is a result of structural and systemic limitations, which will only be remedied through fundamental structural alterations.

64. There certainly have been positive programmes that were implemented by the NYC in the 13 years of its existence. The HSRC's State of Youth report notes a variety of these, but fundamentally the following:

- ❑ "It has established Cluster level partnerships to align itself with the Government policy evolution process, which places emphasis on Clusters to improve coordination of its policy implementation. The commission has also adopted and implemented the Government Program of Action.
- ❑ Is continuing to advocate and lobby for the integration and institutionalisation of youth development at local government level. Alongside this is the establishment of partnerships with various municipalities. Many municipalities have as a result established youth units within their municipal structures, including appointing youth managers. Some municipalities are in a process of developing youth policies.
- ❑ Through the Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) on youth affairs it has managed to advocate for and coordinate the integration of youth development in all government programs. It draws from the National Youth Development Framework in this regard and advocates for youth focal officers of various government departments to be champions of youth development in their respective line functions. It also promotes cross-pollination in the implementation of their initiatives and programs across departments.
- ❑ Is continuing to advocate and lobby for the integration and institutionalisation of youth development at local government level. Alongside this is the establishment of partnerships with various municipalities. Many municipalities have as a result established youth units within their municipal structures, including appointing youth managers. Some municipalities are in a process of developing youth policies.
- ❑ The NYC prepared the Green Paper on and participated in the establishment of the National Youth Service Program, which was approved by Cabinet in

2003. The primary objectives of the NYSP are to improve service delivery and foster social cohesion. It also aims to provide comprehensive skills development to the youth through a variety of service programs. At the end of 2005 at least 13 087 young men and women had benefited from the projects related to the NYS. Most of these were concentrated in the health, infrastructure, social development and environment sectors.

- ❑ In recognition of the importance of access to information, support and resource services as per its mandate, the NYC developed the National Youth Information Services. The services comprise a toll free National Youth Counselling Line, and Internet website, Youth Information Guide and lately an SMS service. It is intended to be a gateway to all essential information for and regarding youth. During the 2004-05 financial year the NYC recorded that it captured 20 000 cell phone users, 34 965 calls were answered through the youth line, and 229 000 hard copies and 10 000 Braille copies of the youth information guide were printed. Through this service youth are also provided with information regarding HIV/Aids, career and academic development, youth rights and responsibilities, etc.³⁹
65. Now, these are part of the broader youth development interventions which the NYDA will have to build on and consolidate in its relations with government and society at large, mainly the intensification of the provision of information to all young people.
66. The HSRC report notes the following weaknesses of the NYC, which are largely a consequence to structural and operational realities:
- ❑ "They are lacking in undertaken research on the status of youth in the country. Only one study was done in 2002.
 - ❑ They have not developed mechanisms to monitor and implement youth development initiatives
 - ❑ They have not been able to communicate their activities widely
 - ❑ The other constraint is limited financial resources, in particular the budgetary process. According to the NYC, they are usually denied increases in their

budget. Moreover they are not given a chance to present their case before treasury to lobby for more funds. This process of lobbying for funding the NYC is led by the Presidency.

- ❑ The NYC also perceives lack of or limited buy-in from government with regard to fulfilment of its mandate. This makes it difficult for it to enforce its mandate and policy. Despite the IDC there are some government departments where the NYC has not been able to secure working partnership and thus influence its approach to youth development. The department of education is one of these. Also some departments do not take their participation in the IDC seriously hence they sometimes send junior officials, there is inconsistent representation, representation by staff from line and support functions (e.g. Human Resources).
- ❑ The fact that the government did not through parliament adopt the National Youth Policy implies that the NYC cannot hold the departments accountable for non-implementation
- ❑ The Act does not provide the NYC with a right to recourse on youth matters.
- ❑ The institutional arrangements make it difficult for the NYC to hold any agency, department or program accountable. The UYF for example is located under the ambit of the Department of Labour to which it is accountable.
- ❑ Whereas there are Provincial Youth Councils, the provinces were not bound by the National Youth Commission Act, thus there were different Acts in the provinces which were not streamlined with the National Act. This resulted in differences with regard to for example where the Commissions are located in the structures of governance as well as differences in priority accorded youth development. Moreover the National Youth Council could not intervene in this regard⁴.

Why phase out the UYF?

- ❑ The UYF functions, intentions, objectives and responsibilities are correct, but should be transplanted to the NYDA for the following reasons:
- ❑ Inflexibility and lack of access to the resources by the majority of young people and their organisations.
- ❑ Bad and negative perceptions

amongst the public and other youth organisations.

- ❑ Lack of accountability and collective ownership.
 - ❑ Lack of cooperation with other youth agencies and structures.
 - ❑ Lot of intermediaries which hampers youth's ability to access funding more speedily and efficiently.
 - ❑ Lack of training and support for young people on how they should access development finance.
 - ❑ Openly operating like a commercial bank, taking limited risks and use very commercialized financing policies thereby excluding rather than including majority of young people.
67. An integrated Youth Development Finance Institution would really provide solutions to the problems that characterise the UYF. The organic presence and coordinated approach to youth development of the envisaged NYDA would address the problems of accessibility and comprehensibility of a youth development finance initiative. This should not be disassociated from youth development in the broader framework and perspective.

Tasks and Responsibilities of the NYDA

68. 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), 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 Intergovernmental 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.
69. These roles, responsibilities and tasks should be further expatiated and given practical coherence by the NYDA and all and involved youth formations and structures.

Operational Considerations

70. The NYDA's Operational Executive should include:
- ❑ A Development Finance Division responsible for supporting youth Co-operatives and SMMEs.
 - ❑ Information and Advisory Services Division responsible for YAICs.
 - ❑ Government Liaison Division responsible for government relations.
 - ❑ Civil Society Division.
 - ❑ Corporate Sector and Business Division.
 - ❑ Education and Training Division.
 - ❑ Sports, Arts and Culture Division.

An Integrated Youth Development Strategy

71. With the key elements of youth development outlined in the fashion mentioned and substantiated above, the NYDA and all youth development activities should necessarily be driven through an integrated and activist youth development strategy.

72. An emphasis is made here that a youth development strategy should be integrated in that it should consider all sections of development in South Africa, and dynamically link to other development activities and programmes pursued by government, private sector and civil society.
73. An integrated youth development should not be reduced to subordination of youth development programmes, projects and structures to any sector of society—government, civil society or business.
74. Certainly, such a youth development strategy should expand to cover all areas that the NYP 2000, NYPDF 2002 and Draft NYP 2007 reflected on. These include:
- ❑ Education, Skills Development and Training
 - ❑ Health and Welfare
 - ❑ Social Development
 - ❑ Sports, Arts and Culture
 - ❑ Youth Economic Participation
 - ❑ Youth Service
 - ❑ Etc.
75. The activist part of a Youth Development Strategy entails active and vigorous involvement of the NYDA in advocating for youth development in all spheres of society. An activist youth development strategy should:
- ❑ Advocate for Access to Compulsory and Quality Education—and if stoppage of fees will increase access, Youth Policy should say so.
 - ❑ Advocate for Access to Health, Housing, Water, Sanitation, Electricity and other basic services.
 - ❑ Condemn brutal exploitation of young workers through informalisation and casualisation.
 - ❑ Condemn racism, tribalism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia and other odious phenomena.
 - ❑ Not be a 'messengers' strategy of government.
76. In essence, an activist youth development strategy should not be a spectator, or a neutral player in developmental politics, it should instead energetically advocate for and promote the development of all young South Africans.

Conclusion

77. Although succinct, the reflections we made above should be openly discussed, advocated for, and ultimately constitute the centre of youth development in South Africa. Certainly, an independent, integrated, and activist youth development policy, agency and strategy constitute the most correct and comprehensive approach to youth development in South Africa. Further issues that could arise of this overview should be entertained and given the necessary attention they deserve. Aluta!

Footnotes

¹ HSRC, The State of Youth Development in 2006

² ANC YL, Youth Development Perspective, 22nd National Conference, 2004.

³ HSRC, The State of Youth Development in 2006

⁴ Ibid.