



EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR COMMITTEE ASSESSES PROGRESS ON P20 YOUTH PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour today received presentations from the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), National Planning Commission (NPC), Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC) and the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) as part of its assessment of progress in implementing recommendations arising from the P20 Youth Parliament.

The institutions outlined their responses to the recommendations, focusing on strengthening youth economic participation, expanding employment opportunities, enhancing skills development and creating pathways into the labour market.

Providing a political overview ahead of the Department's presentation, Employment and Labour Minister Nomakhosazana Meth said persistently high youth unemployment remains a structural challenge that requires a sustained and coordinated response from government, business and society.

Minister Meth emphasised that the scale of the challenge necessitates stronger coordination, collaboration, integration and partnerships across sectors, particularly as many of the Youth Parliament recommendations cut across the mandates of various government departments and institutions.

She said the Department's contribution focused on translating the recommendations into practical interventions.

"From our side, we are bringing the practical side of things, what has been achieved and what is planned. We do this without masking the challenges and difficulties," said Minister Meth.

The Minister further stressed that the Department's objective is not only to create short-term opportunities, but to build an integrated employment system that connects young people to work opportunities, skills development programmes, entrepreneurship support and labour market services.

Presenting the Department's interventions, Acting Director-General Sam Morotoba told the Committee that DEL has expanded its employment services beyond its network of labour centres through satellite offices, outreach sites and mobile Public Employment Services (PES) and Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) units, including in rural and historically underserved communities.

The presentation highlighted government's coordinated approach to expanding employment opportunities for young people,

strengthening labour market services and improving collaboration with the private sector and other government departments.

A central feature of the Department's strategy is its commitment under the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2030 to contribute to the creation of two million work opportunities.

According to the Department, one million opportunities are expected to be created through Public Employment Services and departmental agencies, while a further one million opportunities will be generated through the UIF-funded Labour Activation Programme (LAP).

The Department reported that Public Employment Services exceeded its annual target for opportunity creation. Against a target of 70 000 opportunities, the Department achieved 116 040 opportunities.

DEL also outlined a national framework for youth employment interventions, including innovation funding, employment counselling, job canvassing, placement services, work-seeker registration, subsidies for persons with disabilities, job preservation measures, labour market programmes, enforcement of labour standards and dedicated youth employment initiatives.

The Department highlighted the scale of its employment services. Since the implementation of the programme, 2.24 million work seekers have been registered, while 1.43 million individuals have been reached through counselling services and the SAY-outh platform. In addition, 212 462 young people have been placed in employment opportunities, 50 575 jobs have been preserved through interventions by the CCMA and Productivity SA, and 309 659 compliance inspections have been conducted.

From a broader labour market perspective, the Department reported cumulative achievements of 7.39 million work-seeker registrations,

2.15 million counselling interventions and 371 938 placements since the 2019/20 financial year.

Provincial performance data showed that all provinces exceeded their targets for work-seeker registration, employment counselling and placement services, with particularly strong performances recorded in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and the Eastern Cape.

A significant portion of the presentation focused on labour market policy reforms. The Department informed the Committee that the National Labour Migration Policy, approved by Cabinet on 28 May 2025, is being supported through amendments to employment services legislation currently being processed for parliamentary consideration.

The Department also reported progress on the National Employment Policy, which was developed with technical support from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and is expected to proceed to public consultation.

Several sectors were identified as having strong potential to absorb young job seekers, including construction, agriculture, hospitality and tourism, wholesale and retail trade, domestic work and logistics. The Department noted that strengthened labour market interventions, improved enforcement and closer collaboration with employers could further expand opportunities in these sectors.

To support implementation, the Department has established partnerships with organisations including the Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC), the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, the European Union, the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention (PYEI), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), and private employment agencies represented through CAPES.

The presentation also highlighted interventions aimed at increasing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. Through the subsidy scheme administered by Public Employment Services, more than 1 000 opportunities have been created through 21 partner organisations across the country.

In addition, PES has provided workplace learning opportunities for graduate psychologists placed in labour centres. A total of 399 graduates participated in the programme nationally, while 188 completed the programme on 31 July 2026. The Department indicated that budget constraints prevented the retention of these graduates.

Members were also briefed on additional collaborative initiatives involving other DEL branches, government departments and the private sector. These include the

Education for Employment (E4E) programme funded by the European Union, recruitment drives for LAP-funded programmes, including inspector internships, support for the Minister's coordination of inter-ministerial and business partnerships on skills development and employment, and ongoing work on the National Employment Policy and the coordination of Public Employment Programmes.

The presentation concluded with a reaffirmation of the Department's commitment to building a coordinated national employment system that integrates work-seeker registration, career counselling, job matching

public employment programmes, private-sector partnerships and labour market reforms to improve long-term employment outcomes for young South Africans.



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