

“ The City of Heritage ”



**ULUNDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
POLICY
2024/2025**

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ACRONYMS

- ♦ HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- ♦ AIDS - Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- ♦ SA - South Africa
- ♦ IDP - Integrated Development Plan
- ♦ NYC - National Youth Council
- ♦ NYDPF - National Youth Development Policy Forum
- ♦ NGO - Non- Governmental Organizations

- ♦ SETA - Sector of Education and Training Authorities
- ♦ NVCL - New Venture Capital Learnership
- ♦ LED - Local Economic Development
- ♦ CBO - Community Based Organizations
- ♦ HEI - Higher Education Institutions
- ♦ SANCA - South African National Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- ♦ SAPS - South African Police Service
- ♦ VCT - Voluntary Counselling and Testing
- ♦ MRM - Moral Regeneration Movement
- ♦ HRC - Human Rights Commission
- ♦ MOU - Memorandum of Understanding
- ♦ NYDA - National Youth Development Agency

1. INTRODUCTION

After having established Ulundi Municipality as an institution of the government, capable of delivering the needs of our communities. There is a need to create a policy environment that will give effect to the youth development initiatives. This Policy Framework takes its cue from advances, shortfalls, and challenges that the municipality. The municipality subsequently identified the need to develop a youth development policy that among other things will spur on the active involvement of the youth in service development, implementation and creating opportunities for the youth to have a voice in decisions which regarding them. Over the period of its existence, Ulundi Local Municipality has learned that its youth is faced with myriads of challenges such as: unemployment, poverty, HIV/AIDS, limited access to higher education as well as lack of skills development opportunities among others. Our youth is also confronted with the challenges of substance abuse, moral degeneration.

The Ulundi Youth Development Policy seeks to provide a guiding framework for youth development in Ulundi, but at the same time identifying projects that can be implemented to address the challenges that have been identified in this document.

2. BACKGROUND

The South African youth, aged 14-35 years, face numerous day-to-day challenges some of which usually escalate to lifetime wellbeing hindrances. South Africa's conception of youth development is greatly having shaped the country, and its democratic goals.

As such, contemporary policy and strategy documents dealing with youth development within South Africa (SA) are based on the principles of social and economic justice, human rights, empowerment, participation, active citizenship, the promotion of public benefit, and redistribution.

These principles, coupled with the need to create and foster economic growth, will require that South Africa's youth be considered as both beneficiaries and as agents of change, and not just as passive recipients of government services.

Majority of young people in The Ulundi Local Municipality like most young persons in the country encounters unemployment, lack of employment opportunities, susceptibility to social ills such as HIV/AIDs, crime, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, lack of education and development *et cetera*.

To this effect, it is crucial that opportunities are created for young people to enable them to deal with the challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. This can be achieved if our youth are well located socially, politically, economically and meaningfully engaged at community levels; thus, ensuring democratic involvement, and acquisition of first-hand knowledge and experience of civic action.

The municipality is committed to the development of its youth and recognises the important role they play in the society at large. In partnership with other spheres of the government and non-governmental institutions, the municipality the municipality must ensure availability of necessary relevant interventions.

The South African Constitution and related legislation and policy, clearly set out a commitment to youth development. Youth development interventions initiatives are largely driven and coordinated at a national level. However, the National Youth Policy 2009 - 2014 spells out the specific roles of the local government. It is therefore important that a comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development is taken to address youth challenges that be put in place.

3. DEFINATION OF YOUTH

3.1 Youth

Youth refers to young persons, i.e., young women and young men, between the ages of 14 and 35. This group requires social, economic, economic political support to realise their full potential. Whilst this definition is broad, encompassing a large slice of one's life. It is understood that this is a time in life when most young people are going through dramatic changes in their life circumstances as they move from childhood to adulthood through puberty. Young women and men face many challenges and threats that are unique to them to each.

3.2 Youth Development

Youth Development refers to a process whereby young women & men can improve their skills, talents, abilities as well as expanding their intellectual, physical, and emotional capacities. This process includes the opportunities of young women & men to express themselves and to live fulfilling lives in all social, cultural, economic, and spiritual spheres. Youth development also refers to engaging young women & men in development activities as participants in the decision-making processes and as beneficiaries.

3.3 Youth Empowerment

Youth Empowerment refers to the process of increasing personal, inter-personal and political power to enable young women & men or groups of people to improve their life situation. It requires full participation of young women & men in the formulation. The implementation and evaluation of decisions determining the function and well-being of society.

3.4 Mainstreaming of youth development

Mainstreaming of youth development refers to a process of integrating the youth development into the core of work of the spheres of government.

For Ulundi Municipality, mainstreaming of youth development would therefore entail the following:

- ◆ The inclusion of youth development programmes in Ulundi IDP.
- ◆ The inclusion of youth development programmes in Ulundi Budget.
- ◆ The inclusion of youth development programmes in Ulundi skills development, learner ships, internships and in service training programmes.
- ◆ The participation of the youth in Ulundi governance structures and processes.
- ◆ Youth development agenda cuts across all departmental programmes and projects in the Municipality

4. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4.1 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996)

The Constitution of Republic of South Africa (1996) is the supreme law of the country entrenching specific rights, responsibilities, and principles that everybody must uphold. It lays the foundation for youth economic empowerment. For example, Chapter 13 Section 217 calls for redress of economic imbalances of the marginalised members of the South African population, which is inclusive of the youth. It also contains the Bill of Rights, which enshrines the rights of people (including the youth) and affirms the values of human dignity, equality, and freedom.

4.2 The National Youth Development Policy Framework 2002-2007

The NYC also developed National Youth Development Policy Framework (NYDPF) 2002-2007, which was designed to accelerate the mainstreaming of youth development as an integral part of the transformation agenda of the democratically elected Government of South Africa. The policy framework advocated an integrated and holistic approach towards youth development that was advanced through the identification of strategic intervention areas to address the specific needs, challenges and opportunities confronting young men and women in South Africa today.

4.3 The National Youth Commission Act No.10 of 1996

The Constitution of South Africa (1996) recognizes the role played by young people as well as their future role in moulding a society that belongs to all. The passing of the National Youth Commission Act (Act No. 19 of 1996) represents a major commitment by government to treat the needs of the youth in a serious and comprehensive manner.

4.4 National Youth Policy, 2000

The National Youth Policy 2000 was a formal recognition and articulation of aspirations, needs and conditions of young women and men through a policy initiative. It was guided by two rationales:

- ◆ Provision of opportunities to the youth through the programmes and services provided by the government and NGOs to enable them to reach their full potential as active participants in society; and
- ◆ Active involvement of the youth in national development through promoting a spirit of co-operation and co-ordination of government departments, non-government organization and youth groups in youth development.

4.5 The National Skills Development Act (1998)

The National Skills Development Act (1998) calls for the establishment of Sector of Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) aimed at providing market-related skills that are intended to benefit the people, including young women and men. The challenge with most of the SETAs is that they are yet to develop and implement the New Venture Capital Learnership (NVCL) programme to equip young people with business-related skills, which must be coupled with practical placements to acquire experience.

4.6 The Municipal System Act (2000)

Chapter four of the Local Government Municipality System Act 32 of 2000 encourages a culture of community participation in the programmes of the municipalities. The mainstreaming of youth economic participation programmes into IDP and LED strategies for municipalities is one of the development tools that can be used to develop a culture of stakeholder participation in governance, including with young people.

4.7 The HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan for South Africa (2007-2011)

Advocating for the prevention, treatment, care, and support, with special focus on the implementation of policies and programmes to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS especially to vulnerable children, youth, and youth-headed households.

4.8 Employment Equity Act (1998):

Protect workers and job hunters from an unfair discrimination by employers and potential employers. Its aim is to achieve equity in the workplace by promoting equal opportunities and fair treatment in employment through the elimination of unfair discrimination; and implementing affirmative action measures to redress the disadvantages in employment experienced by designated groups to ensure that fairness is implemented.

5. PROBLEM ANALYSIS

The Ulundi Youth Development Policy shall focus on the following challenges.

5.1 Skills Development Challenges

The municipality sees the following skills development challenges as the priority for attending to youth development.

- ◆ Illiteracy amongst youth especially young males
- ◆ Lack of career guidance
- ◆ Lack of skills and training
- ◆ Absence of a database of unemployed youth and their skills profile
- ◆ Unavailability or inaccessibility of financial support for skills development

- ◆ Shortage of schools for youth with disabilities
- ◆ Alarming spread of HIV/AIDS spread and teenage pregnancy.
- ◆ Continued inaccessibility of higher education to youth
- ◆ Unavailability of exchange programmes
- ◆ The continuous high drop-out rate
- ◆ None- involvements by private sector in the plight of young people.
- ◆ Shortage of tertiary institutions that deals with skills and training.
- ◆ Absence of information centre.

These are a result of combined effect of the apartheid legacy, spatial dislocation of 'black' youth from work, lack of information to youth and inaccessibility of resources.

5.2 Economic Development Challenges

The municipal local economic development (LED) interventions on youth development shall be informed by the following challenges:

- ◆ Out-of-school graduates and semi-literate youth are involved in crime because of exclusion and discrimination from the local economy.
- ◆ There are no youth economic support centres focusing on such services as tender advice and accessing capital.
- ◆ Young people generally lack skills which makes them unemployable.
- ◆ Lack of resources for promoting economic development amongst youth
- ◆ The municipal procurement policy is not biased towards the youth.
- ◆ Youth are not yet benefiting from current municipal and local business opportunities.
- ◆ These challenges are a result of non-integration and lack of targeting of youth in economic development within the municipality.

Amongst the youth the following groups are the most affected by these challenges:

- ◆ Unemployed youth
- ◆ Disabled youth
- ◆ Unskilled youth
- ◆ Illiterate youth

5.3 Social Challenges

There are social needs of youth and the importance of them participating fully in the society and communities in which they live as part of building social cohesion and national unity. Interventions in terms of this objective will focus on building the social capital and networks of youth, strengthening their identity, building their self-esteem, developing a sense of belonging and nurturing a shared value system.

The Ulundi Municipality takes the challenge of HIV/AIDS very seriously but acknowledges that more could be done to prevent the spread of the virus and its negative social consequences. This is critical because of the following challenges:

- ◆ The rate of HIV/AIDS infections amongst youth continue to be high in the Ulundi Municipality
- ◆ Poor safety and security in the local hospitals make it difficult for youth use them for dealing with HIV/AIDS
- ◆ There are few youth health workers, support groups and youth centres for supporting youth living with HIV/AIDS and affected by the pandemic.
- ◆ There is a continued poor use of contraceptives, condoms, and especially female condoms.
- ◆ The youth is not participating in clinic committees.
- ◆ There is poor publicity of Attic programmes.
- ◆ Families, peers, and partners have limited awareness of their supportive role in relation the youth infected by HIV/AIDS
- ◆ These challenges arise from ignorance, illiteracy, poverty, sexual abuse, and fear of rejection. This pandemic affects all youth.
- ◆ Youth heading and running households being at greater risk of abuse, exploitation and dropping out of school.
- ◆ Limited access to services and opportunities for rural youth.
- ◆ Limited access to services and opportunities for youth with disabilities to compete with their peers.

5.4 Main-Streaming Challenges

Many of the above challenges result from inability to mainstream youth development. In part this is both symbolised by and resulting from low levels of youth mobilisation, limited targeting of youth in service delivery processes and a lack of resources to contribute to youth development.

These challenges can also be attributed to the continued lack creative leadership both in the municipality and the youth sector to full-fill this role. Another significant cause is the absence of a structured engagement of youth in the IDP process, including budgeting, and the LED forum. Even ward committees continue to marginalize youth. The entire activities currently taking place occurs without a guiding strategic framework.

6. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- ◆ The overall aim of the policy is therefore to engender the active involvement of young people.

- ◆ To improve the quality of lives of young people in Ulundi by militating against all social and economic challenges that may impair their human development ability.
- ◆ Establishment of a youth development institutional model, aimed at creating opportunities for young representation in decision making, and participation in terms of issues affecting them within the municipality.
- ◆ Developing and implementing a coordinated, multi-sectoral, interdisciplinary, and integrated approach in designing and executing programmes and interventions that impact on major youth issues.
- ◆ Ensuring that youth service delivery is aligned to the municipal service delivery priorities.
- ◆ Ensuring that youth development process starts where young people themselves are i.e., at community level.
- ◆ To institute and promote environmental education and active participation in environmental conservation amongst the youth.
- ◆ To set up and maintain database for easy and quick retrieval of information pertaining to youth.

7. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

7.1. Location of the Youth Unit

Youth issues will be coordinated mainly from the Department of Community Services. The administrators in this unit shall:

- ◆ To coordinate and oversee the development and implementation of the youth development programme in the municipality.
- ◆ Motivate for the provision of resources and budget for programme implementation.
- ◆ Interact and liaise with government departments and institutions regarding youth development.
- ◆ To continuously engage in research projects aimed at informing, monitoring, evaluation and improving service delivery to young men and women.
- ◆ To monitor and evaluate municipality wide youth service delivery.
- ◆ Through the municipal manager, report to council on municipal wide youth development progress.
- ◆ Develop appropriate strategies and programmes for youth development including opportunities for creation of employment for young people.
- ◆ Establish and maintain viable strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholder's local, provincial, and national level with government structures, NGO's, CBOs, and other role players whose service is youth focused.
- ◆ Advocate for youth owned companies to acquire a reasonable share of all municipal procurement opportunities.

- ◆ Promote participation of youth in IDP and Budget processes.
- ◆ Monitor the compliance of the municipality on the above.
- ◆ Be an information hub for young people of the municipality.
- ◆ Develop appropriate strategies to realize youth development policy imperatives.
- ◆ Facilitate establishment of Youth Council in their municipality

7.2. Other Units of the Municipality

Department of Community Services will interact with other units of the municipality regarding youth matters. The relevant units will include IDP, LED, Budget, Town planning, Technical Services and Supply Chain Management.

7.3. Establishment of Ulundi Youth Council

Ulundi Youth Council is made up of representatives of all political youth formations in Ulundi. The ward-based youth development forums are also represented in this structure by one representative from each ward. This is a political structure, and its role and responsibilities include among other things:

- ◆ To oversee youth development in Ulundi area of jurisdiction.
- ◆ Ensure that youth development programmes are implemented by Ulundi Municipality.
- ◆ To build capacity and being the voice of the youth sector.
- ◆ To revive youth participation in decision making processes of Ulundi Municipality.
- ◆ To advocating and lobby for young people and their organisations.
- ◆ Monitoring implementation of youth development programmes in the municipality.
- ◆ To ensure that there is organised consultation and participation of young people in Ulundi IDP processes.

7.4. Skills Development and Job Creation Programmes:

- ◆ Relevant partnership agreements will be entered into with other role players such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and other Governmental Departmental whose service is youth focused:

The example of such partnership includes:

- ◆ The Department of Labour for learner ships & Skills development programmes
- ◆ National Youth Development Agency for youth business entrepreneurship funding
Facilitate *mentorship, internship and learnership opportunities* for unemployed youth both within and outside the municipality.

- ◆ Department of Public Works for National Youth Service Programme
- ◆ Sectoral Education and Training Authority (SETA)
- ◆ Department of Public Works for National Youth Service Programme
- ◆ Develop and implement a bursary strategy and plan that is responsive to the human resource development needs of Ulundi.
- ◆ Develop and implement a system for tracking the progress and sustainability of youth that have benefited from bursaries awarded to them.
- ◆ Identify and link youth with opportunities for bursary programmes offered by private sector institutions.
- ◆ Encourage young women and those with disabilities to participate in bursary and learner ship/apprenticeship programmes.
- ◆ Develop and implement exhibitions and workshops about education, skills development and capacity building programmes which are available for youth and how to access these.
- ◆ Develop and implement a “Back-to-Schools” programme where Members of Mayoral Committee adopt schools.
- ◆ Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) provide career guidance for youth finishing school and placement of youth learners for
- ◆ International Relations in terms of Youth Exchange Programmes to be entered into with a foreign city. Such a programme should benefit young people with mutual learning and training.

7.5. Poverty Alleviation / Social Programmes

- ◆ Relevant partnership agreements will be entered into with other role players such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), community Based Organizations (CBOs), and other Governmental Departmental whose service is youth focused:

The example of such partnership includes:

- ◆ The Department of Social Development (provincial) regarding social grants
- ◆ The Department of Home Affairs for ID programme
- ◆ Provincial Health Department regarding health promotion programmes
- ◆ South African National Council for Alcohol and Drugs Abuse (SANCA) AND South African Police Service (SAPS)
- ◆ HIV/AIDS is seen by the Ulundi Municipality as a serious challenge and the municipality shall implement an integrated yet robust youth programme against HIV/AIDS. The programme shall entail:

- ◆ Implementation of a vigorous *HIV/AIDS education and awareness project* through the schools, extra-educational social clubs, community institutions and public media with youth as the audience.
- ◆ Programme for youth out of school and partner with NGOs such as Love Life in terms of HIV/AIDS programmes.
- ◆ Consolidating and expanding the voluntary *counselling and testing (VCT) project*
- ◆ Training youth on *peer counselling skills*

- ◆ Develop and implement career guidance workshops for Grade 9-12 from poor performing schools.
- ◆ Link youth to art, culture and recreational projects implemented in Ulundi.
- ◆ Moral Regeneration Programmes will be done in partnership with the Moral Regeneration Movement (MRM).
- ◆ HUMAN Rights Commission (HRC) and Commission for Gender Equality will be involved in awareness raising and educational programme for young women and men regarding their rights as human beings, citizens of the county and as women and men.
- ◆ Corporate companies' businesses will be included for social responsibility programmes.
- ◆ All partnership Agreements will be accompanied by Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A database will be developed that include all potential organizations or partnership purpose.

7.6. Youth & Economic Development

- ◆ Developing and implementing a Youth Employment and Empowerment Index by identifying employers who are willing to give students work-based training.
- ◆ Engage NYDA on establishing a full-service branch, local youth offices and Four (4) pilot local youth offices in identified nodal points.
- ◆ Collaborate with business on hosting career expos.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M & E)

The Ulundi Municipality Youth Unit, as the custodian and champion of this Policy will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating:

- ◆ the implementation of this Policy; and
- ◆ the impact of the Policy on improving the lives of youth in Ulundi.

It is important that this policy is fully integrated into working of the Council. The policy needs to be reviewed yearly to ensure the needs of youth are met.

Policy Drafted or Review Team	Youth Office
Policy Implementation Department	Community Services
Policy Mandated by	
Signature of Mandating Official	
Approved by	
Date Adopted	
Date of Next Review	
Reviewed Yes/No	