

The youth of today will continue to pay for the mistakes of the ANC

By **Luyolo Mphithi MP** – DA Shadow Minister of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities

Thank you Deputy Speaker,

I would like to acknowledge and honour the youth of 1976. Long may their spirit live to inspire us always. Today we walk in their footsteps and their spirit as we labour around our generational issues.

In South Africa the two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you realise *kushubile*.

Sihlalo Izolo endise Buhle Park ndivakashela amakhaya apethwe ngaqbantwana

These young people that I spoke to yesterday asked me to bring their stories to your urgent attention.

I met Edwin Makhubo, a 24 year old, who looks after 5 siblings and the youngest being his sister who is 4. They live in an old abandoned house along the train track of Buhle Park. He wanted me to tell you that he is cold, unemployed and losing hope.

Nthabiseng Nkosi is 23 years old. Nthabiseng is one of 4 siblings, her mother passed away and her father left them, she looks after her 3 siblings and her own child, she is unemployed and they live off her child grant. She has been waiting to hear back on her indigent grant application she applied for last year. She's getting desperate.

Themba Mnguni, a 19 year old, is one of 5 siblings, both parents past away. He dropped out of school and has joined his four other siblings in the unemployment line. He wanted me to tell you that he wants to complete his schooling or at least gain a skill he can use.

These are but a few young people, but their stories are the same as many others. If indeed this government is trying to be responsive I challenge it to step in and provide more support to the most venerable amongst us. They watching right now.

Honourable Speaker, Today we will listen to every ANC speaker tell us what they tell us every year. Decorating the painful realities of young people with a phrase that we hear all the time "Progress has been made but more needs to".

What we won't hear is what has happened to the 77 Commitments that were made at the Jobs Summit October 2018 and how these commitments are going to help the youth of Buhle Park.

What we won't hear is what action is going to be taken to give the youth in Sterkspruit – kwaskiszana and emjikelweni the work-readiness training and skills to better match them to economic opportunities

What we won't hear is how this government plans deal with the many young people who have already experienced years of rejection from economic activity and now are suffering from depression.

We know this because in the Medium Term Budget Policy statement the word 'youth' appears once and that - is under the definitions section.

As if unemployment was not bad enough, we now have to deal with the frustration and anxiety of having to inherit an incapable state at the brink of economic collapse and not because of Covid-19 only - the economy was collapsing even before that. Speaker, the truth is under the ANC government, young people will become middle aged and still be trying to repay and rebuild this economy.

Kodwa ke Sihlalo perhaps it may not be that bad because we might be lucky to have ministers that are actually in touch with issues of communities at that time.

As always the DA will advise and give guidance because we want the country to succeed. Young people deserve that. We call on government:

1. To ensure the re-stimulation the Employment Tax Incentive (ETI). The ETI is a direct intervention in the labour market aimed at stimulating demand for youth labour. The wage subsidy implicit in the ETI lowers the cost of the young, inexperienced worker to employers without lowering the wages of the workers themselves.
2. To provide targeted support for micro-entrepreneurs in the informal economy. We must ensure that we foster this sector and support the job creation potential that it offers.
3. We need to focus on expanding support and incentives for youth-owned businesses and co-operatives.
4. We need decisive action on the struggle around data.

The Western Cape Government and City of Cape Town have created Youth Hubs in the City of Cape Town where young people can develop their CVs, find internships, complete job readiness workshops and have access to social services that help with substance abuse and personal problems. These Youth Café provide skills development and support in digital training, business entrepreneurship, event management and project management. Imagine having these centres in our rural areas across the country.

Madam Speaker, I believe it was the late uBaba Umkhulu Vusamazulu Credo Mutwa who once said that: "A truly democratic country is one that uses its spiritual talents and the heritage of its people to feed the hungry and clothe the naked".

I am here to confirm my belief in his words and argue that it is the youth that are the spiritual talent and heritage of our great nation. It is the youth of South African that will unshackle this country from pessimism, poverty and passiveness.

The youth hustle continues - It is the youth of South Africa who will confront these various challenges, and unapologetically seek out different solutions for our progress because it is clear that we cannot knock on the door of this government.

It has left us no choice but to do what we must.

Thank you

