



2ND NAMIBIA POLITICAL YOUTH FORUM

“Vision 2030 – Youth aspire to adapt, relate and own!”

10-12 October 2008

HEJA Lodge, Windhoek, Namibia

DECLARATION

1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1 We, the participants of the 2nd Namibia Political Youth Forum (NPYF) having assembled at HEJA Lodge from 10-12 October 2008 for an annual meeting organised under the auspices of the National Youth Council of Namibia, bringing together youth leaders from around Namibia, to discuss critical developmental issues.
- 1.2 Gathering under the theme “Vision 2030 – Youth aspire to adapt, relate and own!” a theme, deliberately chosen to stimulate the youth of our country to ponder on ways and means to define their contribution towards the realisation of Vision 2030. It is our firm belief that the current generation of youth leaders, as future leaders of the country should take ownership of the implementation of Vision 2030 to ensure that by the year 2030 they are proud presenters of the final outcome of Vision 2030.
- 1.3 We recognise the challenges that young people in this country face, particularly in the area of unemployment, education and HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, we recognise that predatory globalisation is the cause of the current global economic slowdown and has the potential to have adverse effects on the well being of the vast majority of Namibian people. Therefore, this gathering calls on all young people gathering here to consider the actions to be taken by the youth and other stakeholders for achievement of Vision 2030.
- 1.4 Collectively as young people we have after careful discussions through plenary and group sessions, identified ways and means through which the youth can contribute to the successful implementation of Vision 2030. We therefore call upon other stakeholders to assist us achieve these goals by agreeing on the following recommendations:



2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Education

- 2.1.1 We commend government for achieving the target of having a coherent Vocational Education and Training Policy Framework which was to be achieved in the year 2005.
- 2.1.2 We also commend government for having achieved the target of localising the IGSCCE and HIGSE Examination system.
- 2.1.3 However, we call upon government and other stakeholders to expedite the establishment of Vocational Training Centres in all regions before the year 2030. Furthermore, Vocational Training Centres should have curricula that are compatible with the skills required in the economy.
- 2.1.4 We commend government for the establishment of incubation centres and SME parks which provide support for emerging entrepreneurs. In this regard, we encourage vocational training graduates to affiliate themselves to such initiatives and we urge government to disseminate information on such institutions to youth in Namibia.
- 2.1.5 We also call on government to establish more Teachers' Training Colleges in Namibia as this will facilitate the training of more teachers in the country. This will further ensure that Namibia meets the target of having one teacher for every 35 learners in primary schools and one teacher for every 30 learners in secondary schools, as articulated in Vision 2030.
- 2.1.6 We call for the upgrading of the qualifications offered by Teachers' Training Colleges to enable these institutions to offer degree programmes.
- 2.1.7 Government should increase the capacity of existing Teachers' Training Colleges in order to meet the target of having no under-qualified teachers by the year 2010.
- 2.1.8 It is recommended that government facilitate skills enhancement programmes for all teachers to improve the quality of the education system. This can be in the form of holiday seminars with a focus on exposing teachers to different teaching methodologies, ways of reasoning and improved teaching styles.
- 2.1.9 We call upon government to offer competitive salaries to teachers in order to motivate them to deliver a better service and also to retain teachers in the profession. Furthermore, in the quest to improve the decentralisation of education, further incentives should be initiated to encourage the placement of teachers in rural areas.



- 2.1.10 We recommend that school development funds should be revised in order to make education more accessible to all.
- 2.1.11 We have identified that many learners are denied admission to tertiary institutions because they fail English. It is recommended that The Ministry of Education focus on improving English levels in all primary and secondary schools to ensure better pass rates and entry into tertiary institutions.
- 2.1.12 We identify an urgent need for a re-evaluation of entry criteria to institutions of higher learning. Institutions of higher learning should offer bridging courses tailor-made for particular diplomas/degrees, as this would enable students to remain within the education system while developing the skills required for entrance into various programmes.
- 2.1.13 In order to create the knowledge based society envisioned in Vision 2030, Namibia needs to expand the capabilities of institutions focusing on high quality research for the purpose of identifying the county's development needs.
- 2.1.14 The shortage of textbooks, stationery and other learning material in the country should be addressed. In this regard, we recommend that the Ministry of Education increase the allocation of funds, per learner, for all learning material used in schools, as this will bring about an equilibrium between rural and urban schools.
- 2.1.15 Many learners are unable to write exams because they cannot afford examination fees, in this regard, we call on the Ministry of Education to accordingly inform school principals, teachers, parents and learners that the Education Act provides for exemption on the payment of examination fees for those who cannot afford the fees.
- 2.1.16 We commend government for their efforts to support learners with disabilities, we call on government to continue capacitating all schools to accommodate and integrate disabled learners.
- 2.1.17 We call on government to create special methodologies of identifying learners with remedial needs, who possess valuable artistic and differentiated intellectual capabilities, and channel them to appropriate institutions that would add value to the development of such learners.
- 2.1.18 We recommend that government increase education subsidies for tertiary education students as there is an urgent need for access to reasonably affordable tertiary education.
- 2.1.19 We recommend a more systematic link of the path of school leavers. The end of secondary education, vocational training, self employment and the employment of graduates should be intertwined and receive government support.



2.2 Health

- 2.2.1 The Namibian Medical Board and Namibian Qualifications Authority should ensure that all medical practitioners rendering services in the health sector are well skilled and qualified.
- 2.2.2 We call upon government to improve the remuneration benefits and working conditions of all health care providers in order to motivate them to deliver quality services so as to ensure retention within their various professions.
- 2.2.3 In the quest for improving the quality of lives Namibians live, improved sanitation should be accessible to all Namibians.
- 2.2.4 More ambulances and mobile clinics should be availed in rural areas.
- 2.2.5 The Ministry of Health and Social Services should engage all relevant stakeholders to ensure that both the public and private health sectors monitor all pharmacies in the country to ensure a decrease in expired medication distributed to the citizenry.
- 2.2.6 Stakeholders should ensure the provision of first aid training to youth.

2.3 Culture

- 2.3.1 The Ministry Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, should be encouraged to promote the preservation of the array of diverse cultures in Namibia.
- 2.3.2 Traditional Authorities should be supported with financial aid and human resources in order to assist them in effectively executing their mandate.

2.4 Economics

- 2.4.1 The Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture should, in conjunction with the National Youth Council, commission research on youth development and empowerment opportunities.
- 2.4.2 Development finance institutions should provide services for youth in order for them to benefit from opportunities in the economy.
- 2.4.3 While commending the Transformation Economic and Social Empowerment Framework (TESEF) initiative, we call on government to enact the envisaged economic empowerment policy in the quest to ensure full socio-economic transformation benefiting the youth and all other stakeholders.



2.5 Globalisation

- 2.5.1 Government should put measures in place to protect Namibian industries against unfair competition brought about by globalisation.
- 2.5.2 Control mechanisms should be put in place to test the quality and safety compliance of imported goods
- 2.5.3 Within the context of regional integration, in particular, in view of the recently launched SADC Free Trade Area, Namibia will be losing out on taxes from regional trade. In light of this development, Namibia needs to strategically focus herself on finding alternative benefits in the regional market. Local entrepreneurs should be encouraged to positively exploit the benefits of the SADC FTA.
- 2.5.4 Investors should be encouraged to go into partnership with youth businesses in both urban and rural area.

2.6 Technology

- 2.6.1 All schools should impart basic computer literacy to learners.
- 2.6.2 The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and other stakeholders should encourage and support the establishment of community radio stations across the country.
- 2.6.3 There must be fully fledged and accessible public ICT centres at all existing multipurpose centres in the regions.
- 2.6.4 Considering that connectivity costs in Namibia are relatively high; Government should therefore create mechanisms to protect consumers against unscrupulous information technology communication service providers.

2.7 Politics

- 2.7.1 All Namibians should be educated to become politically tolerant. All registered and aspiring political parties should take responsibility of educating their members about the importance of political tolerance.
- 2.7.2 As signatories to the Code of Conduct of the Electoral Commission of Namibia, all political parties should embrace the Code and educate their members on its content to ensure that it is enforced.
- 2.7.3 Recognising the youth as important role players in the decision making process, all political parties should be encouraged to include youth at all levels of decision making and governance e.g. the inclusion of youth on the electoral party lists.



2.8 Democracy

- 2.8.1 For the realisation of a participatory democracy, the public involvement in developmental issues and general governance must be encouraged through political rallies and mass meetings by all political parties and consultative meetings and campaigns by the government and other stakeholders.
- 2.8.2 Non-governmental and civil society organisations need to intensify their participation in educating the public about its fundamental rights and roles in a democratic society.
- 2.8.3 We encourage the observation of law in Namibia, regardless of the social standing of any citizen. The Constitution should thus, as the supreme law of Namibia, be rendered the due respect by every citizen.

2.9 Governance

- 2.9.1 In pursuit of good governance, information, reports and feedback on the implementation of government projects and programmes, should be made more accessible to interested parties or individuals.
- 2.9.2 While the rule of law exists in Namibia, its continued preservation is emphasised herein.

3 General comments

- 3.1 The NPYF encourage participants to implement the resolutions adopted at this year meeting through their political parties.
- 3.2 The LOC should ensure that the Forum's sustainability is secured by bringing more stakeholders and sponsors on board.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 We, the participants of the 2nd NPYF acknowledge our shared responsibility in ensuring that the goals espoused in Vision 2030 are attained and thus avail ourselves to their successful implementation through the recommendations contained above.