

EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



DRAFT: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2025 - 2027

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ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABET: ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

AIDS: ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME

AU: AFRICAN UNION

DPLG: DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ELM: EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

LED: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LDAC: LOCAL DRUG ACTION COMMITTEE

HIV: HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS

IYDS: INTEGRATED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

M&E: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

NDP: NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

NYDA: NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

NYDPF: NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK

NYC: NATIONAL YOUTH COMMISSION

NYP: NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

INTRODUCTION

1.1 STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

The Emalahleni Youth Development Strategy (YDS) articulates the use of an all-inclusive societal approach that encourages partnerships with civic organisations, private and public sector, together with the community at large to create an environment that enables all young people to thrive.

Youth development is one of the most pressing socio-economic challenges that is faced by South Africa as a nation. The insistent high levels of youth unemployment, pose a threat to our prospects of economic growth which therefore limits our ability to make inroads in tackling poverty and widespread inequality. Despite all the efforts that have been made in relation to youth development, there is a growing need for more initiatives to be made as the youth continues to bear the burden of unemployment as they are unable to access employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, due to the systemic nature of the economy.

Council prioritized the institutionalisation of youth development by establishing the Youth Development Unit and have realised the holistic development of any society relies heavily on the potential of its youth. The youth plays a pivotal role in progressive development or decline of any community; therefore; in order to ensure that the matters that affect the youth are taken into consideration during strategic planning and implementation of municipal programmes.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (YDS)

The purpose of the strategy is to guide the mainstreaming of youth development in all policies, programmes and plans within Emalahleni Local Municipality in particular, and of other sectors within Emalahleni that provide services to and for the local youth community. The creation of viable opportunities and services for all young people allows them to better engage with their environment, both internally and externally in order for them to have a successful transition into responsible, independent productive and stable adults.

1.3 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

The Emalahleni Municipal area, which means the “place of coal”, consists inter alia of the towns of Emalahleni, Ga-Nala and Ogies. The town of Emalahleni was established in 1903. It was named after a ridge of white rock located near the present railway station. In the early years, this ridge was a halting place for transport wagons and a trading post. Emalahleni has a large collection of heritage assets, which is currently under threat from rapid development. Emalahleni is relatively the most industrialised municipal area in Nkangala District and its landscape features mainly underground and opencast

coalmines. This area has the largest concentration of power stations in the country. Its mining and industrial history is reflected in the area's heritage places. This includes elements of industrial history, military history, architectural/engineering and graves which should be protected and conserved.

Emalahleni Local Municipality is located within the Mpumalanga Province and is situated in the jurisdictional area of the Nkangala District. The district is located to the North-West of the province and is the smallest district in land mass (21%) and has the second largest population concentration (35%) in the province. It covers an area of about 2677.67 km².

The Emalahleni Municipality area of jurisdiction consists of the main following towns/ settlements, ranked according to population:

- Emalahleni;
- Ogies and Phola;
- Ga-Nala and Thubelihle;
- Rietspruit;
- Van Dyksdrift; and
- Wilge.

The selected demographics are as follows:

- According to Stats SA's Census 2022, Emalahleni's population increased from 395 466 in 2011 to 434 522 people in 2022 – 4th largest population in the province and 27.3% of Nkangala's population in 2022.
- The youth population (0-34 years) formed 59.7% of the total population & the elderly population (60+ years) 5.4% of Emalahleni's population.
- In 2022, the share of the female population was 49.2% and that of males 50.8%.
- The Population increased by 39 056 between 2011 and 2022, a population growth rate of 0.9% per annum (p.a.), which was slightly higher than the low annual average economic growth rate of 0.5% p.a. over the same period.
- The number of households in Emalahleni increased from 119 873 in 2011 to 164 573 households in 2022 – an increase of 44 700 households & an annual growth of 3.1%.
- Emalahleni's share of Nkangala's households increased slightly from 33.6% in 2011 to 34.1% in 2022.
- The household size declined from 3.3 in 2011 to 2.6 in 2022.

2. EMALAHLENI EDUCATION INDICATORS

- Emalahleni's grade 12 pass rate improved slightly from 81.9% in 2014 to 82.8% in 2022 and was the 4th highest of the 17 municipal areas in the province in 2022.

- Emalahleni's pass rate improved by 3.2 percentage points between 2021 and 2022.
- It is important that there are interventions from the DoE in the low performing schools within this municipal area.
- The area improved its admission rate to university/degree studies from 34.5% in 2021 to 36.3% in 2022, which was the 7th highest in the province.
- The challenge is to accommodate the educated young people in the area - inadequate economic opportunities.
- Emalahleni's (92.5%) functional literacy is improving and in 2022 it was the highest in the province. Good foundation and building block.
- According to the 2022 Census figures, the share of population 20 years & older with no education improved between 2011 and 2022 and was the best of the 17 local municipal areas.
- The share of population 20 years and older with tertiary education, however deteriorated in the same period, but was still the 2nd highest/best in the province.

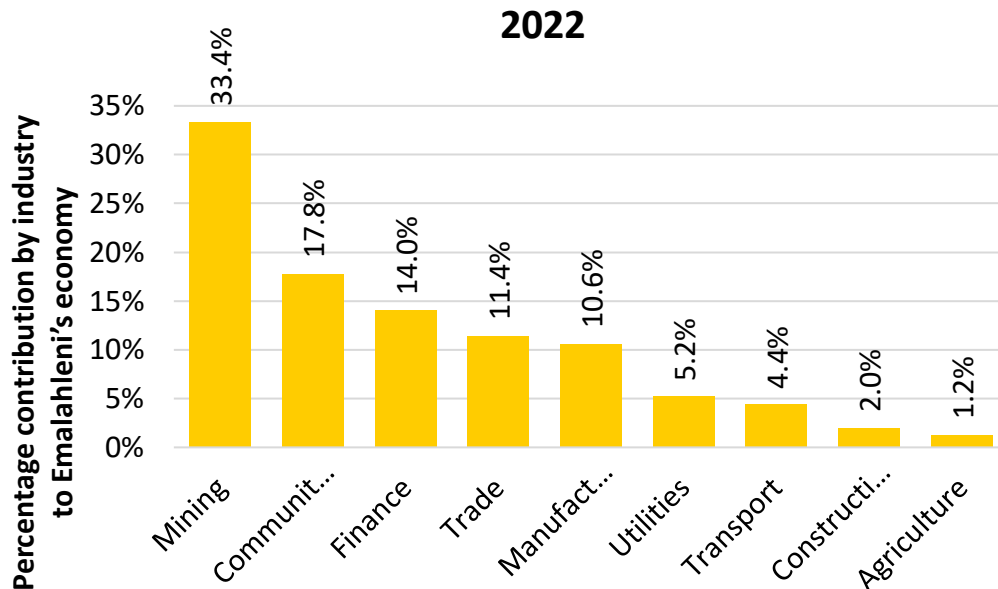
3. SKILLS CHALLENGE IN THE LABOUR MARKET AND ECONOMY

- Mismatch of skills in the labour market
- Shortage of skilled and oversupply of unskilled & semi-skilled workers
- High unemployment and very high youth unemployed
- Low economic and employment growth – vicious circle.

4. LABOUR MARKET INDICATORS

28.6% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official/strict unemployment rate • Deteriorated from 26.3% in 2019 	35.3% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official female unemployment rate • Deteriorated from 32.6% in 2019 	41.6% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official youth (15-34 yrs.) unemployment rate • Deteriorated from 37.3% in 2019
-1.1% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average annual employment decline 2019-22 • Worse than 2.2% p.a. growth 2014-19 	15.8% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share of Mpumalanga's employment • 15.2% share of Mpumalanga's employment in 2019 	21 132 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of job gains • 14 624 job losses in 2021 & 14 639 in 2020

5. STRUCTURE OF EMALAHLENI'S ECONOMY



6. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY IMPERATIVES INFORMING THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (YDS):

6.1 The National Youth Commission Act 19 of 1996:

The objective of the National Youth Commission will be to “promote a uniformity of approach by all organs of state in all three spheres to matters relating to or involving the youth.

6.2 The National Youth Commission Policy 2000:

The National Youth Commission (NYC) policy which was established in 1997 provides a general approach on the role of local government as part of the institutions and agencies for youth development this policy also states that, The National Youth Commission Policy seeks to ensure a coordinated and holistic response by all stakeholders involved in youth development programmes and activities to the major issues that are faced by the youth. This will involve the three spheres of government as well as the wide range of non-government institutions that are available. Local government is the most direct level of government affecting the youth which has a provision for essential services along with mechanisms that can be used to promote leadership, policy planning and development efforts. These mechanisms should be designed for the creation of youth services and facilities at a local level and the various roles that local government can play in identifying youth needs and development opportunities, designing youth development services and working with local youth organisations.

6.3 The National Youth Development Policy (NYDP: 2020 – 2030):

This policy framework was approved by cabinet with the object of outlining the mainstreaming of youth development as an integral part of the broader transformation project and challenges in South Africa, provides that part of the institutional environment is that all three spheres of government (national/provincial/ and local) should be centrally involved in their areas of influence.

The Policy Priority Areas:

- Quality Education, Skills and Second Chances;
- Economic Transformation, Entrepreneurship and Job Creation;
- Physical and Mental Health Promotion;
- Social Cohesion and Nation Building; and
- Effective and Responsive Youth Development Machinery.

6.4 The Municipal Structures Act (Act No. 117 of 1998):

The Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 provides the status of municipalities and provides the framework for the establishment of municipalities in accordance with the requirements and criteria relating to categories and types of municipalities. It further determines the appropriate division of powers and functions between district and local municipalities and regulates governance structures and electoral systems for newly demarcated municipalities.

6.5 The Municipal Systems Act (Act No. 32 of 2000):

The Municipal Systems Act defines the legal nature of municipalities as part of a system of cooperative Government. It also provides the rights and duties of the municipal council, local communities, and the municipal administration. The rights and obligations of different parties is an important step towards strengthening the democratic contract at the local level. Section 105(1) of this act mandates the MEC for Local Government to establish mechanisms, processes and procedures to:

- (i) Monitor municipalities in managing their own affairs;
- (ii) Monitor the development of local Government capacity and
- (iii) Assess the support needed by municipalities to strengthen their capacity to manage their own affairs.

Municipalities are encouraged to create conditions for local communities to participate in their affairs. This would include participation in the preparation, organisation and review of Integrated Development Plans (IDP). To promote youth development, young people must be involved in IDP processes. With the youth of South Africa constituting the majority of the population and having been marginalised by the policies of the past and challenges that are faced by South African youth in general, local government as the sphere that is closest to the communities should commit to promoting youth development.

6.6 Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act (Act No. 13 of 2005):

This Act facilitates the coordination and the implementation of policy and legislation between national Government, provincial Government and Local Government, and all the other organs of state within those governments. Coordination usually takes place through formal intergovernmental meetings linked to specific sectors and the budget process. It promotes coherent Government, effective provision of services, monitoring implementation of policy and legislation and realisation of national priorities. The NYP 2015-2020 is meant to increase the levels of integration in developing youth in South Africa. It is therefore not located on its own, but responds to and interacts with a number of pieces of legislation and policy, some more influential than others in an integrated manner.

(Local Government Youth Development Framework 2015 – 2020).

6.7 National Development Plan (NDP):

The NDP provides an aspirational vision of South Africa in the year 2030 and the context with which all youth orientated programmes should be located. The NDP's focus with regards to youth development is on the critical crisis areas of education and economic inclusion. According to the NDP, "having a relatively young population can be advantageous, provided that the majority of working age individuals are gainfully employed. A large workforce with fewer children to support creates a window of opportunity to increase economic output and invest in technology, education and skills to create the wealth needed to cope with the future aging of the population. Some economists call this window of opportunity the "demographic dividend". The window eventually closes when the workforce ages and there are relatively fewer workers to support increasing numbers of older people, but the dividend can last for several decades" (NDP: 2030)

6.8 Basic Conditions of Employment Act, No. 75 of 1997:

The Act provides for the minimum conditions of employment that employers must comply with. Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, No. 53 of 2003 The Act provides for the promotion of black economic empowerment in how the state awards contracts to suppliers and service providers.

6.9 Employment Equity Act, No. 55 of 1998:

The Act provides for the measures that must be put in place in the workplace to eliminate discrimination and promote affirmative action.

6.10 Labour Relations Act, No. 66 of 1995:

The Act includes several provisions that specifically prohibit discriminatory treatment of employees and job applicants.

6.11 White paper on developmental local government 1998:

Section B (1) of the white paper on developmental local government states that a “developmental local government is working with citizens and groups within the community to find sustainable ways to meet their social, economic and material needs and improve their quality of life”. These groups include women, youth, people living with disabilities and children.

6.12 Nkangala District Municipality – Integrated Youth Development Strategy 2014:

The Nkangala-IYDS is based on the following guiding values and principles:

- **Strengths-based:** Young women and young men have gifts and talents that should be identified, and they should be provided with opportunities to exercise and enhance these gifts and talents.
- **Human rights:** Youth development must promote non-discrimination, adhere to democracy and good governance and protect human rights.
- **Partnership:** Young women and young men are active partners and beneficiaries in their own development; therefore, young women and young men should be provided with opportunities for leadership during the course of the programme.

- **Diversity:** Young women and young men are a heterogeneous group: e.g. Women; rural based with a disability; HIV and AIDS infected and affected; and may have particular needs that should be catered for.
- **Holistic:** Young women and young men have a broad range of interrelated needs; therefore, youth development should address young people's needs holistically in an integrated manner.
- **Empowerment:** Young women and young men need opportunities to engage in skills development, education and sustainable livelihoods.
- **Dignity and respect:** Youth development should instil a sense of worth, purpose and direction.
- **Transformation:** Youth development is a dynamic process that transforms individuals, communities and society.
- **Relevance:** Youth development should be located in relevant contexts: family, community and work place sectors.
- **Participation:** Youth development should assist young people to become active and contributing citizens.
- **Equity:** Young people should have equal access to developmental opportunities. Youth development should promote equal redistribution of societal, political, and economic power and should strengthen young people's power to utilize such resources to meet their needs.
- **Effectiveness:** Youth development should meet the needs of young people and produce desired results and outcomes.
- **Sustainability:** Youth development should meet the needs of the current and future generations through social advancement, environmental protection, and economic prosperity. Sustainability must be reflected in strategic and business plans, and budgets. It must inform planning and decision making.
- **Accountability:** Everyone who renders youth development services should be held accountable for the delivery of appropriate and quality services. Youth development initiatives should instil accountability and responsibility in young people.

7 INTERGRATED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

7.1 Vision

“Integrated, holistic and sustainable youth development practice, conscious of the historical imbalances and current imbalances and current realities, to build a non-sexist, non-racist, democratic South Africa in which young people and their organisations not only enjoy and contribute to their full potential in the social, economic and political spheres of life but also recognise and develop their responsibilities to build a better life for all’ (NYDP framework 2002; 8).

7.2 Mission

“To facilitate, co-ordinate, lobby and monitor the implementation of youth development programmes and policies, as well as initiate, and implement strategic projects”. (IYDS-NYDA; 2011).

7.3 Objectives

- 7.3.1 The provision of further educational opportunities i.e. bursaries, learnerships and training opportunities, for the members of the youth within our community.
- 7.3.2 Nurture and support youth development within the community.
- 7.3.3 Facilitate the youth’s entry into the job market through engagements with stakeholders relevant to the local economy which will be a mechanism that will assist with the reduction of youth unemployment, provide support and skills training.
- 7.3.4 Provide economic opportunities to businesses owned by young people through the LED office.
- 7.3.5 Build partnerships and networks to render support to youth at risk in a coordinated manner by collaborating with departments and other spheres of government and civil society i.e. awareness campaigns etc.
- 7.3.6 Increase the involvement of members of the youth by ensuring that they become agents in their own development and make a meaningful contribution within their communities.
- 7.3.7 To ensure that the objectives set out in the youth summit resolution documents which are implemented.
- 7.3.8 To ensure that the Local Drug Addict Committee is functional and serves its purpose.

7.4 Guiding Principles

Youth development is rooted on the Batho Pele principles and the six (6) core values of the Emalahleni Local Municipality which form part of the principles that the office will operate in line with. The principles are listed below:

- **Consultation:** All stakeholders should be consulted on the nature, quantity and quality of services to be provided in order to determine the needs and expectations of the end users. Citizens or ordinary members of the youth can be consulted through surveys, campaigns, Izimbizo and or workshops.
- **Service Standards:** citizens should be aware of the level and quality of services that they will receive so that they are aware of what to expect.
- **Responsiveness:** all services must respond to the needs, challenges and concerns of the youth and act in their best interest at all times.
- **Courtesy:** citizens should be treated with courtesy and consideration there needs to be tools, measurements and systems that are put in place to ensure politeness and considerate behaviour towards everyone that seeks help from the office.
- **Access:** All citizens should have equal access to the services to which they are entitled.
- **Participation and inclusion:** The development of policies, programmes and plans for youth must include members of the youth.
- **Integration:** co-ordination amongst role-players to maximize impact of services provided to youth.
- **Holistic:** All services that are offered must encompass all physical; psychological, social, economic and spiritual aspects of youth and facilitate a smooth transition into adult life.
- **Diversity:** services and initiatives must recognize and acknowledge diverse backgrounds of youth.
- **Non-discriminatory:** services must not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, disability or any other form of discrimination.
- **Information:** Citizens should be given full, accurate information about the public services they are entitled to receive
- **Openness & Transparency:** Citizens should be told how departments are run and the various reporting structures.
- **Redress:** Establish a mechanism for recording any public dissatisfaction, e.g. suggestion boxes and customer satisfaction questionnaires and a complaint handling system needs to be put in place.

- **Sustainable development:** The assets, capabilities, potential and capacities of youth must be developed without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- **Social cohesion:** Youth must be included as a significant part of societal structures and activities.

7.5 Youth Defined

For the purpose of the YDS, youth is defined as everyone within the age range of eighteen (18) to thirty-five (35). The National Youth Policy (2009-2014) inclusively refers to young people as those falling within the age groups of fourteen (14) to thirty-five (35) years which is primarily based on the mandate of the National Youth Commission Act of 1996 and the National Youth Policy of 2000. This inclusive approach considers both historical and present-day conditions. The motivation for thirty-five (35) years as the upper age limit of the youth has remained the same over the years as historical imbalances in the country are yet to be addressed fully.

7.6 Target groups

7.6.1 This Strategy applies to:

- All public service employees, officials and departments within Emalahleni
- All private sector institutions within Emalahleni that, through their corporate social investment programmes or other such programmes ensure that services to the people of Emalahleni are delivered.
- All organised youth structures and organisations operating in Emalahleni.
- All other community based, faith-based, non-government organisations (NGO's) and other such organisations of civil society;
- All other interested parties, volunteers and stakeholders who participate in the delivery of services to people within Emalahleni.
- All persons involved actively or indirectly in delivering socio-economic services.

7.6.2 Beneficiaries of the Strategy

- All young people falling within the age bracket of 14 to 35 years; that reside in Emalahleni including the following categories.
- All organized youth structures and organisations operating within Emalahleni.

- Young women.
- Young men.
- Youth in secondary school.
- Youth in tertiary institutions.
- School-aged, out-of-school youth.
- Unemployed youth.
- Youth in the workplace.
- Youth from poor households.
- Youth from different racial groups.
- Youth who have been or are at risk of being abused.
- Orphaned youth.
- Youth with disabilities.
- Youth living with HIV/AIDS.
- Youth in conflict with the law.
- Youth abusing dependency-creating substances.
- Youth in townships.
- Youth in informal settlements.

8. EDUCATION, ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

There is a need to change the economic status of the youth by ensuring that members of the youth are empowered to participate in mainstream economic development activities which are aimed at eradicating poverty and meeting the economic needs of the youth. All these interventions will focus on promoting employment, raising incomes, removing barriers that constrain youth participation in the labour market and attain other 'youth-centred' economic development outcomes.

The participation of young people in the economy should be enhanced through integrated programmes and support for social enterprises that focus on job development and placement which may also come in the form of income generating activities. This involves the improvement of accessibility of information with regards to employment opportunities, business advisory services, youth related activities and programmes as well as funding opportunities that are available to young people.

The creation of an enabling environment which consist of an increased localised beneficiation of mineral resources through the involvement of youth in the value chain of extraction and beneficiation of minerals. Quotas need to be put in place in order to allow young people to participate fully in economic activities without any restrictions.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa mandates that local government should promote social and economic development as well as to structure and manage its administration and budgetary and planning processes to give priority to the basic needs of the community, and to promote the social and economic development of the community. Local Economic Development should focus on supporting job creation through the improvement of the business environment in our municipality through the support of Local

Economic Development, enterprise development and the establishing of partnerships with government agencies and donors to strengthen our local economic sector. The implementation of improved action plans and the involvement and beneficiation of young people in Local Economic Development units through the accelerated participation of young people in Local Economic Development programmes.

Actions that should be taken to increase youth participation are the following:

8.1 Decreasing youth employment:

The Municipality will co-ordinate and implement youth orientated programmes in line with the national and provincial government that are aimed at reducing youth unemployment. Furthermore, the Municipality will co-ordinate the implementation of youth targeted programmes by the private sector through the Local Economic Development Forum and any other available platforms.

8.2. Private Sector Collaboration:

The Municipality will assist the private sector institutions with operations within Emalahleni to set and meet youth employment targets and indicators, develop and implement a project that will require all businesses that procure business from Emalahleni to employ a minimum of one (1) student and/or volunteer, for the duration of their contractual obligation.

8.3 Supporting Youth owned and led Small Medium Macro Enterprises:

The Municipality will identify their areas of business, areas where they require support and link them to existing SMME support programmes. Collaborative efforts with NYDA will be exploited for implementation of high impact programmes for youth development.

8.4 Bursaries:

The Municipality issues bursaries to undergraduate students that are responsive to the improvement of service delivery needs of the Municipality. A system for tracking the performance with academic records is used to evaluate the performance and value for money on the investment.

8.5. Learnerships, Apprenticeships and Work Integrated Learning:

The Municipality will source learnership programmes and provide the youth to these programmes. Young women and people living with disabilities will be encouraged to participate in learnership or apprenticeship programmes. Furthermore, the Municipality will identify employers who will be willing to give students and graduates work-based training.

8.6 Career Expo:

The objectives of the career exhibitions are to provide a platform for high school learners to explore the various career opportunities that are at their disposal within the public and private sector of the economy and assist them in acquiring the necessary information about career paths available and the requirements needed at tertiary level in order to pursue a qualification in each career field.

8.7 Youth Summit:

In ensuring the municipality is responsive and relevant to the needs of its young people Youth Summit will be held. This will be done through liaison with recognised youth formation that deals with issues of the youth.

8.8 Partnerships with Educational Institutions:

Signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with educational institutions and training service providers to formalise partnerships aimed at developing both soft and hard skills among youth. This collaboration will be implemented through a structured Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programme to enhance their employability and career readiness.

9. HEALTH

The health and well-being of young people needs to be improved in order to allow them to lead fulfilling socio-economic lives. Enable young people to become agents of change in the health and wellbeing of their respective communities, the reduction of the impact of HIV / AIDS infections amongst young people, the improvement of access to youth friendly health related programmes and services and, the facilitation of multi-sectoral responses to health and wellbeing issues that affect young people.

10. SPORTS AND RECREATION

The revival of sports tournaments is to promote a healthy lifestyle amongst young people, there is need to revive all the sporting codes through hosting sports tournament quarterly. This will create a more active youth and break social barriers, stereotypes and prejudices.

11. YOUTH INVOLVEMENT, PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

- Advocate for increased effective youth representation and participation in key positions of decision-making, leadership and management at all levels of Government and in the civil society.
- Strengthen and promote Youth Network at all levels and ensure their integration with Internal Networks.
- Promote and support youth institutions for peace and conflict resolution.
- Advocate for realisation of the rights of the Youth with disabilities and ensure their participation in all Youth programmes.

12. SOCIETY AND CULTURE

- Promote respect for various cultural, religious and political differences and identities and instil the spirit of tolerance and unity in diversity among the youth.
- Advocate for a conducive socio-cultural environment that involves the youth and protects them against harmful traditional practices, beliefs and culturally based gender discrimination and practices.
- Support the rehabilitation of the youth who are in conflict with the law.
- Advocate for a strict Substance and Alcohol Abuse Control Policy.
- Collaborate with the youth, Youth Service Organisations; Parents and the Community on rehabilitation of drug abusers focusing on social reintegration.
- Encourage youth artistic and cultural expression through support of arts and cultural festivals, competitions and other activities that promote the cultural heritage, identities and national pride.
- Support appropriate measures to prevent crime and deal with young offenders.
- Increase awareness, protect and safeguard the rights of the youth as well as their obligations to the community and communities' responsibilities to them.
- Ensure that programmes and services are accessed to refugee youth population and those who are internally displaced with particular attention to their needs of basic social services such as education, health services, skills training etc.

13. INTEGRATED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

As part of the annual programmes, the Municipality will undertake the following activities:

- Developing and maintaining a skills profile of the youth within the municipality.
- Producing and implementing a municipal youth skills development plan annually, which shall be reviewed quarterly.
- Provision of an Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) service to illiterate youth.
- Facilitating back to School Programmes for High School Dropouts
- Facilitating training relevant to the economic trends of the municipal economy.
- Facilitating mentorship, internship and learnership opportunities for unemployed youth within the municipality.
- Through the office of the Executive Mayor, facilitate financial support for marginalized youth seeking participation in higher education by engaging external stakeholders within the private sector to assist in increasing funds for our existing Mayoral Bursary.
- Strive towards the development of a procurement policy that ensures that 30% of capital and or operational budgets benefit youth owned entities in all Municipal procurement and or supply chain processes. The ELM Youth Development will also need to ensure that these processes benefit young people within our Municipality.
- Developing and facilitation of Entrepreneurial workshops that will benefit young entrepreneurs.
- Encouraging the participation of youth formations in IDP, LED, and budget processes and Council activities.
- Developing a credible database that lists young people according to their various sectors of interest.
- Developing ELM Youth Development Facebook and Twitter pages to increase our communication platforms with the youth of ELM.
- Identifying of areas within our Municipal jurisdiction that can be used as WIFI-hotspots to ensure that access information is easily accessible to young people.
- Ensuring that drug and substance abuse campaigns are held on a quarterly basis in conjunction with the Municipality's Transversal Unit and the Local Drug Action Committee (LDAC).
- The Youth Development and Management Unit will monitor the employment of young people within the Municipality through the assistance of the Directorate: Corporate Services.
- Facilitate the establishment of sports councils.
- Facilitation of the involvement of young people in Environmental projects and programmes.

- Facilitate awareness campaigns on financial literacy, including budgeting, saving, and investment for young people.
- Assist young entrepreneurs in accessing local markets to sell their products or services through social market.

There needs to be an integrated delivery of these components, with annual reporting by the municipality. It is important that opportunities are created for young people to enable them to deal with challenges such as poverty, inequality and unemployment which can be achieved through partnerships with other spheres of government and non- governmental institutions to ensure the availability of all the necessary and relevant interventions.

There is a need for greater co-ordination and integration amongst role-players and a multi-sectorial approach to address all the needs and concerns of the youth of Emalahleni where a special focus is placed on disadvantaged and marginalized youth. Particular attention to be placed on prioritized youth target groups such as young women, youth with disabilities, unemployed youth, school-age out of school youth and youth at risk which would include youth heading households, youth that are in conflict with the law, dependent on drugs and those that are subjected to various forms of abuse.

14. FUNCTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EMALAHLENI YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT UNIT

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANDATE:

- Develop and manage youth development strategies and programmes daily in MP312 as per Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Ch 7 152-153).
- Manager and monitor the implementation of life skills development and empowerment daily in MP312 as per the Youth Development Policy 2014-2019.
- Conduct research on Youth Development in MP 312 as per the Youth Development Policy 2014-2019.
- To Manage and monitor the coordination of procedural requirements pertaining to specific functional activities and development initiatives.
- To facilitate the collaboration with external departments or agencies i.e. sport federations, Government departments etc. to obtain synergy between planned external and internal initiatives relating to social empowerment and youth development.
- To Interact with all community-based structures in order to facilitate the alignment of the needs and priorities of the youth, creating awareness, encouraging participation and attending to arrangements in respect of specific events or programmes.
- To facilitate the effective and efficient execution of actions and to monitor the delivery of programmes that are associated with youth development.
- To Plan and organise programmes that are in line with youth development.

- To Monitor and evaluate short- and long-term objectives and current developments, problems and constraints.

15. STAKEHOLDERS AND ROLE-PLAYERS

The Emalahleni Youth Development will be responsible for the implementation of this IYDS and all Internal and External stakeholders that are listed below will be responsible for the oversight of project implementation. The stakeholders and role players listed below will also be consulted in all matters pertaining to Youth Development in Emalahleni.

15.1 Internal role players and stakeholders:

- ELM Council;
- ELM Mayoral Committee;
- ELM Office of the Municipal Manager;
- ELM Executive Directors;
- ELM LED Unit;
- ELM IDP Unit;
- ELM Transversal Unit;
- ELM Public Participation Unit; and
- ELM Communication Unit.

15.2 External role players and stakeholders

- South African Youth Council (SAYC);
- Youth led organisations i.e. NGO's, Political Parties etc;
- The National Youth Development Agency;
- The Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and recreation;
- The Department of Basic Education;
- The Department of Higher Education and Training;
- Department of Trade and Industry;
- Department of Social Development;
- South African Police Services;
- Department of Correctional Services;
- National Treasury;
- Provincial Treasury;
- GoGTA;
- Office of the Premier;
- Small Enterprise Development Agency;
- South African Association for Youth Development Practitioners;
and
- Southern African Association of Youth Clubs.

15.3. Role of the Youth

The rights of Youth come with responsibilities. While the municipality promotes Youth rights, it also encourages them to understand and fulfil their responsibilities, thus, the Youth should:

- Train and socialise in order to learn different skills.
- Be patriotic and loyal to the municipality and promote its well-being.
- Contribute to the social economic development at all levels.
- Create and promote respect for humanity, sustain peaceful coexistence, national unity and stability.
- Take steps to protect the environment.
- Engage in supporting and protecting the disadvantaged and vulnerable members of society.
- Promote democracy and the rule of law.
- Create gainful employment.
- Take advantage of available education and training opportunities.
- Develop positive attitude towards work.
- Avoid careless sexual practices.

16. THE YOUTH COUNCILS

The Youth Councils at National, District and Local levels will play a fundamental role in the implementation of this Strategy. They will in particular perform the following functions:

- Mobilise, sensitise and organise the youth of Emalahleni Local Municipality in a unified body for political, economic and socio-cultural activities.
- Gainfully engage the youth in activities that are of benefit to them and the nation.
- Protect the youth against any kind of manipulation.
- Advocate for and mobilise resources to support and fund Youth Related Programmes and activities.
- Liaise with development organisations to ensure that youth gain access to resources, services and programmes.
- Promote relations between youth organisations within Emalahleni Local Municipality with similar objectives or interests.
- Inspire and promote in the youth the spirit of unity, patriotism and voluntarism.
- Act as a voice and bridge to ensure that Government and other decision/policy makers are kept informed of the views and aspiration of the youth.

17. CHALLENGES OF THE YOUTH

a. Lack of Employment and Business Opportunities

The youth unemployment rate, measuring job-seekers within the youth bracket fell further to an over two-year low of 59.6% in the third quarter of 2022, from 61.4% in the previous period. Poor education impacts greatly as it produces low skills levels and skills mismatch amongst the youth. The solution to this is to find ways to assist school leavers who did not do well in their exams to gain practical skills that are in line with current and future trends and that will prevent them from being excluded from participating in the economy. Moreover, Youth with Disabilities are being discriminated against and side-lined and mostly do not have access to basic education. The country has to come up with ways to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty and also break the unemployment chains.

b. Lack of Access to Higher Education

It all needs to start with improving the quality of education, the quality of education for most black children is poor that then denies many learners access to higher education and training that would have enabled them to fulfil their potential. The performance of existing institutions ranges from world-class to mediocre, increasing participation and graduation rates with the option of a four-year university degree, combined with bridging courses and more support for universities to help black students from disadvantaged backgrounds is likely to yielding higher returns. 2020 51% Higher Education, Tvet college sector completion rates for N3, N6 and National certificate (Vocational) NC(V) level 4 46.2%.

(Department of Higher Education and Training, Annual Performance Plan 2022/23) <https://www.dhet.gov.za> accessed 12/12/2022

c. Lack of Youth Initiatives Funding

To research youth challenges, engaging the youth on possible solutions and designing targeted strategies to mitigate the risks and encourage development impact. Youth empowerment has long been identified as a catalytic tool for tackling youth unemployment and other youth challenges, however many factors hinder the expansion of youth empowerment to reach its intended goal. Following the basic principles of youth empowerment can improve its success rate. The youth become empowered when:

- They have effective policies to protect and drive their initiatives.
- They are included in decision-making processes.
- Their voices are heard and honoured.
- Their opinions and ideas are implemented.
- They are given the opportunity to design solutions to their problems.

- They are given the opportunity to take ownership of the programmes.
- Provide with tools and resources to participate in such programmes.
- Communication is done in a language they easily understand.
- A diverse pool of peers is participating in these programmes.

<https://www.dbsa.org> accessed 12/12/2022.

d. Low Entrepreneurial Activities

Sub-Saharan Africa's population is projected to double by the year 2050 pushing even more youth into poverty as unemployment numbers continue to climb. In South Africa alone, the unemployment rate is alarmingly high for youth at around 66%. To create enough employment for all young people, South Africa would need to create more than 220,000 jobs every single day. However, bringing corporates into partnerships to encourage youth entrepreneurship could change this trajectory and create meaningful solutions for unemployment. The youth unemployment crisis is not something the government can address alone, but it calls on the private sector to play an active role.

<http://www.dsbd.gov.za> accessed 12/12/2022.

e. Poor Mental and Physical Health Outcomes

Unhealthy young individuals are likely to be unproductive and thus will not be able to contribute to the economy. This is due to challenges with communicable diseases such as TB, HIV/AIDS and Covid 19. More educational awareness on such diseases should be conducted and the youth should be made aware of the consequences of being exposed and what preventative measures can be taken to avoid exposure from such communicable diseases. Furthermore, excessive use and or abuse of substances such as drugs, alcohol and tobacco also contribute to poor mental and physical health outcomes and interventions by the Local Drug Action Committee should be conducted so that we may reduce dependency on substances.

f. High School Drop Out Rate and low transition from school to work

Lack of access to educational programmes contributes highly to poverty and unemployment and one other factor is that a lot of pupils drop out of school from grade 9 going up to grade 12. Another problem is the quality of education in South Africa which is causing low take up and pass rate in science and mathematics subjects leading up to a low number of people taking STEM at higher education. Solutions to the numerous challenges that cause school dropout should include providing of financial support for middle income households and also supporting

schools so that they can offer a conducive place for learners. Introduction of learning in their first language, sign language for disabled pupils could also make a significant impact on the dropout rate.

g. Inadequate Resources for Youth Development and poorly coordinated services

One of the main challenges affecting Youth Development work is inadequate resources that are being allocated to the youth development as well not having a clear distinction between the political and administrative parts of youth development work. Sufficient budgets should be made available and accessible to its beneficiaries in order to implement proposed sustainable programmes.

18. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

The Youth Development Unit intends to execute the following objectives:

Short Term Objectives	Medium Term Objectives	Long Term Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resuscitate Sports activities in our community (Soccer, Netball), • Life Skills Coaching, • Internships, • Work Integrated Learning (Experiential Learning), • Learnerships, • Sort term employment (EPWP), • Entrepreneurial Training, • Career exhibition for grade 9 and 12 learners, • Assisting Grade 12 learners with higher learning institution applications, • Assisting grade 12 learners with NSFAS applications, • Launching South African Youth Council Emalahleni. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial and Non-Financial Support for SMMEs, Cooperatives and Informal Traders, • 30% Sub Contracting to Youth Owned SMMEs • 30% of Request for Quotations be allocated to the Youth, • Pair young people with coaches and mentors, • Take a child to work programme. • Entering into agreement with local businesses for youth employment (MOU). • Establish Memorandum of Understanding with local mines for youth employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent employment • A certain percentage of Municipal Land to be leased out to youth formations interested in farming, • Creating fully functional youth centres. • Building of Skills Development Centre.

19. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK

The implementation of this Strategy seeks to provide a framework for planning and action for all agencies and organisations involved in youth work at both district and local level. It provides a basis for integration and engages efforts of NGOs and other groups committed to youth development. The strategy will where necessary, utilize existing structures for its implementation and will stress the need for gender balance and youth representation and participation in its implementation mechanisms.

20. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Emalahleni Local Municipality's Youth Development as the custodian of this YDS will hold the responsibility of monitoring and evaluation through the implementation of the YDS and the impact of improving the lives of young people in Emalahleni. The YDS will be reviewed and updated when deemed necessary.

Monitoring will be done through strategic decision making, ensuring compliance with municipal objectives, data collection and analysis and internal and external audit outcomes related to youth development. Evaluation will be done through quarterly reviews through the Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP) and the facilitation of quarterly reviews and insights.