



# YOUTH POLICY

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## YOUTH POLICY

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### 1. DEFINITION OF TERMS

In this policy, unless the context indicates otherwise

**“Development”** the use of resources to relieve Poverty and improve the standard of living of a nation, community, groups and individuals through asset building. This may be achieved through mechanisation, improvement in infrastructure and financial systems, and empowerment of those affected

**“Economic Growth”**: an increase over time in the capacity of an economy to produce goods and services and (ideally) to improve the well-being of the citizens

**“Human Rights”**: Universal rights to which every person is entitled because they are justified by moral standard that stands above the laws of any individual as you.

**“Marginalisation”**: The overt or covert trends within society whereby those perceived as lacking desirable traits or deviating from the group norms tend to be excluded by wider society and ostracised as undesirables.

**“Social cohesion”**: the process through which individuals or groups are included to participate fully in the society in which they live

**“School aged out-of-school youth”**: Youth who have dropped out of school and are unskilled

**“Teenage parents”**: young people with dependents

**“Youth living with HIV/AIDS”**: Youth infected by HIV/AIDS

**“Unemployment”**: condition of person who is able to work, is actively seeking work, but is unable to find any or the state of being without a job or compensation

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The local government sector has undergone very profound changes over the past decade, resulting in the establishment of new municipal structures in 2000. The constitution provides for a developmental municipality whose role is direct provision of basic and developmental service to its area of jurisdiction.

The municipal structures Act (1998), Municipal Systems Act (2000), White Paper on Local Government (1998), and the Integrated Development Planning and Performance Management Regulations (2001) were developed to bind all the district and local municipalities in their youth development practices across the country.

The Youth of MLM is faced with myriad of problems such as, unemployment, poverty, HIV/AIDS, crime and violence and substance abuse. The Municipality also recognises the factors which place young men and women at risk. Young women and men also participate in high-risk activities and thus add to the burden of social deconstruction and moral degeneration. There is a lack of coordination around youth development. Many youths are heading households and this affects young men and women differently, therefore the Municipality acknowledges and seeks to provide practical ways to address it.

Therefore, MLM is committed to the development of its youth, and recognises the important role they can play, thus pledges to:

- Offer a youth development package aimed at enhancing the quality of life for young people within the MLM, through a structured participation in the municipal youth development programmes.
- To be in partnership with other spheres of government and civil society to ensure that the relevant and necessary interventions are in place to assist the youth.

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### **3. PURPOSE**

- 3.1 Providing information to assist stakeholders in conceptualising, developing, planning and evaluating the implementation of youth strategy in municipality.
- 3.2 To provide basic guidelines to all wards in developing and appropriate strategies for youth development interventions

### **4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

The policy must be read in conjunction with, and amongst others, the following pieces of legislation and other documents that relates to Youth.

#### **4.1 INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATIONS**

- World Programme of Action on Youth (2000)
- Africa Youth Charter (2006)
- World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons  
UN Declaration of Human Rights.

#### **4.2 NATIONAL LEGISLATIONS**

- South African Constitution, Act No. 108 of 1996
- National Youth Development Act 2008.
- National Youth Commission Act 1996 (Act 19 of 1996)
- National Development Plan  
Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, No 13, 2005

### **5 . SCOPE OF APPLICATION**

- 5.1 This policy shall cover Young women, youth with disabilities, unemployed Youth, school aged and out of school Youth, youth based in rural areas as well as youth at risk in terms of the National Youth Development Policy Framework as the identified targeted Groups.

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- 5.2 This policy is aimed at informing decisions around youth development as well as the types of interventions designed to facilitate youth development in the MLM.
- 5.3 This policy recognises the gap between early childhood development and Youth Development services, and will implement bridging interventions in the group (10-13 years).

### **6. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

- 6.1. To participate in campaign that are relevant to young people coordinated by the LM
- 6.2. Facilitate access to comprehensive health services.
- 6.3. To engage on moral regeneration programmes in order to bring back the confidence and pride amongst young people;
- 6.4. Strengthening education and skills development among youth.
- 6.5. Ensuring youth representation at local government level, in matters of socio-economic development.

### **7. VISION**

Integrated, holistic and sustainable youth development, conscious of local dynamics, to build responsible and active young people who will be non-racial and non-discriminatory participant in matters of local government.

### **8. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

- 8.1 The SPU shall facilitate and coordinate implementation of this MLM Youth Development policy as soon as it has been approved by Council.
- 8.2 The unit shall compile annual implementation plans linked to the desired outcomes of the policy.
- 8.3 The unit shall prepare young people's entry into economic activity by implementing various programmes in order to prepare them for the workplace in an effort to work towards reducing unemployment.

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- 8.4 Providing leadership development that will enhance the capacity of youth organisation in order to ensure that they become active agents in developing their own communities and participate in other development projects.
- 8.5 Raising awareness that should create platforms of engagement on typical issues that affect youth especially, issues including the dangers of substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and HIV/AIDS.
- 8.6 Encouraging partnership-building through collaborating with external partners.
- 8.7 Facilitate internal collaboration and coordination so that the SPU takes on a championing role within the MLM for the inclusion of youth in the LM's delivery of services and implementation of programmes.

## 9. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS.

### 9.1 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

MLM institutional youth development arrangements.

#### 9.1.1 Location of MLM Youth Development Committee

9.1.2 This committee should be created to be a statutory youth development body within council with the responsibility to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of policies and programmes from other spheres of government.

9.1.3 This unit should be established as a measure to institutionalise and mainstream youth development.

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9.1.4 An elected councillor shall be nominated to chair the Youth Committee and the chairperson shall take the responsibility for overseeing committee's youth development policies and activities.

9.1.5 The committee shall honour the national government effort in recognizing the role played by youth in bringing about the social transformation.

### 9.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE

- 9.2.1 To oversee youth development programmes, services and organisations located in the local area
- 9.2.2 To identify the priority needs and opportunities facing young women and men and their development;
- 9.2.3 To establish a permanent mechanism for participation by young people or their representative organisation in the planning and decision-making of council
- 9.2.4 Participate in the formulation of youth development strategy of MLM and monitor and evaluate the impact out of the strategy implementation
- 9.2.5 Draw terms of reference for Local youth committees and provide guidance on how youth development should be mainstreamed at Local Municipality Level
- 9.2.6 Ensure that youth development programmes are implemented within the ambits of the Local Government legislative and National Youth Development Policy frameworks
- 9.2.7 Play a lobbying and advocacy roles for the consideration of youth development interests by other portfolio committees within Council
- 9.2.8 Ensure that all the departments within MLM mainstream youth development
- 9.2.9 Monitor the implementation of the proposed policy intervention in the form of youth development programmes
- 9.2.10 Facilitates the formulation of MLM Youth Development Framework, which will serve as the Council Guidelines during the coordination and implementation of youth development programmes.

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### **9.3 REPORTING MECHANISMS FOR MLM YOUTH COMMITTEE**

- 9.1.1 The youth committee minutes shall feed into the SPU Portfolio Committee and are further forwarded to the Executive Committee for the resolving of issues that has been recommended by the Youth Committee.
- 9.1.2 That the Speaker of Council shall serve as an Ex-officio member of the Youth Committee by the virtue of this office responsible for broader community participation.
- 9.1.3 The annual budget allocation will be utilised to effect youth development programmes and furthermore youth development need to be mainstreamed within all departments and sections.
- 9.1.4 A certain target of at least 30% should benefit young people across all the departments.

### **10. MANAGEMENT**

- 10.1.1 MLM should appoint a staff member, Youth focal person to be responsible for the designing, facilitation and implementation projects and programmes.
- 10.1.2 The youth officer shall be responsible for the day to day of implementing decisions of the Youth Committee via Council.
- 10.1.3 This officer should have certain powers in the municipality to implement and report on matters pertaining to youth development.
- 10.1.4 The officer should have full time role of coordinating, implementing, and offer programmes and services to young people.

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### **10.2 YOUTH FORUM**

10.2.1 The purpose of the youth forum is to be the custodian of programmes emanating from the statutory body that has a responsibility to raise youth development funds as an autonomous entity.

10.2.2 The youth forum should have a consultative power with youth development committee that should be selected by its general meeting.

10.2.3 The meetings and powers are decided on by a constitution agreed to with the Local/Ward Youth Forums with other youth development entities.

### **11. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY**

11.1 MLM is the most direct level of government affecting young men and women which provides essential services along with a mechanism for promoting leadership, policy planning and development efforts.

11.2 Mechanisms should be designed for the creation of youth services and facilities at the local level and the role MLM can play in identifying youth needs and development opportunities, designing youth development services and working with local youth organisations.

11.3 The traditional leaders should play an integral part in rural areas when pursuing youth development objectives.

### **12. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & EVALUATION**

12.1 This policy will be reviewed and updated every year or in light of evidence that indicates that this policy is not meeting the outcome set out in section two.

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12.2 Youth forums, networks, structures etc. and other affected parties may consult with the Youth programme on the efficacy of this policy and the extent to which it achieves its aims. This will be relayed directly to the SPU Manager through the appropriate structures.

12.3 The compilation of annual implementation plans will specify details of targets to be reached in the short, medium and long term, and evaluation tools will specify quantitative and qualitative indicators with time frames, which will assist in tracking progress on the achievement of policy objectives.

### **13 THE MONITORING COMPONENT WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:**

- 13.1 Ensuring compliance with the objectives and outcomes
- 13.2 Outcome data collection and analysis
- 13.3 Risk monitoring and mitigation through the risk management plan
- 13.4 Decision making and programme adjustments as may be required.

### **14. THE EVALUATION COMPONENT WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:**

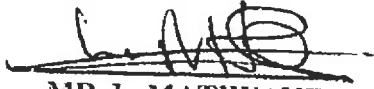
- 14.1 There shall be quarterly reviews
- 14.2 Systems cohesion analysis will also be done quarterly
- 14.3 An external control such as a mid-term shall be set in motion
- 14.4 An independent assessment of the effect on beneficiaries shall be done annually.
- 14.5 Facilitation of monthly reviews and insights, which shall be published for public dialogue.
- 14.6 The third component of the system will be reporting on the progress of programmes.
- 14.7 Monthly reports to the Mayor or Portfolio Head
- 14.8 Quarterly reports & Annual Reports to Executive Committee
- 14.9 The Youth programme will be reviewed on an annual basis, and further research on best practices will continue.
- 14.10 The monitoring, evaluation and review system shall ensure prudent management and use of resources with tangible results being realised. Youth of the MLM as primary

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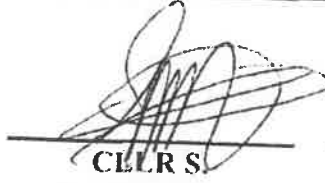
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stakeholders and beneficiaries of this document must play an active role in the Monitoring & Evaluation process. This will be attained through embarking on research such as impact assessment, customer satisfaction surveys, opinion polls targeting the youth population, etc.

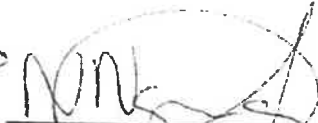
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