

CHILDREN'S NDP - INTERIM REPORT

Introduction

The Children's National Development Plan (NDP) project is aimed at giving the children of South Africa an opportunity to express their views about the NDP. Taking into account resource and time constraints, the project is qualitative rather than quantitative in that it engaged with selected groups of children in each province. Thus far, five workshops have been conducted — Western Cape (an additional workshop was conducted in the Groot Drakenstein Correctional Facility), Gauteng, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal. The workshops were led by Commissioner Nomdo with the support of other commissioners and members of the National Planning Commission (NPC) secretariat. The purpose of this child-friendly, interim report is to share the process and inputs obtained from children thus far. A more detailed paper or set of papers will be produced after the other workshops have been concluded.



Mpumalanga workshop - Picture 1: Commissioner Doms Picture 2: Commissioner Mocumi Picture 3: Commissioner Molokwane and Secretary of National Planning Mr Matona

This is not a nationally representative project and could be considered a pilot for government to introduce targeted groups of children to the concept of participatory governance. The demographics of the children's groups in this project included an equal balance of sexes, ages ranged from 12 to 18 years, and schools ranged from well-resourced and middle-class in some provincial settings to struggling township or rural schools in other provincial settings.

Aims

The children were guided to think about how government works and given insight into children's rights in the South African Constitution. Most importantly, they were asked to engage on the vision, ethos and recommendations in the National Development Plan.

Once all the workshops have been completed, their feedback will be collated into child-friendly products that communicate their views of the NDP or restate the essence of the NDP for other children to understand and engage with it. For example, the children may be co-creators of an NDP board game.

Method

Experiential learning approaches were used to encourage children to be free to play and speak. All the workshops, except the Drakenstein Prison, were conducted over a two-day period, and in order to minimise the disruption to schooling took place partly over the weekend (especially those in the latter part of the year). It is also important to note that the description of the method below is very broad as the process was customised to cater for a range of factors such as the province, the language, issues in that particular area, and even the weather. As the days unfolded, the process would take into account the energy and the mood in the room by occasionally raising or having to temper it.

Day One:

Introductions (this is done in a friendly manner like discussing the right to a name); branches of government (with an actual tree branch); campaigning to be the President; identifying local political figures; conducting a session of Parliament (e.g. on child abuse or teenage pregnancy); introducing the National Planning Commissioners; demonstrating levels of government (with puzzles); functions of government; the budget process (using a three-tiered cake); and prioritising children's issues.



Picture 4: Branches of government tree in Mpumalanga **Picture 5:** Levels of government cake in Mpumalanga **Picture 6:** Discussing key priorities in Gauteng

Day Two:

This included discussing children's rights (e.g. dignity of persons with disability); the chapters of the NDP; the Preamble to the Constitution; NDP vision messages (posters); socio-economic rights discussions and role-playing; Vision 2030 (making creative posters comparing 2017 & 2030); selecting a provincial representative; and informing the children of child-friendly NDP outputs to be developed.



Picture 7: Discussing dignity rights for people with disability in Western Cape **Picture 8:** Roleplaying adolescent challenges in Gauteng **Picture 9:** Newspaper cuttings of political figures in Gauteng

Workshops

The National Planning Commission has hosted four engagements with school-going children in the provinces of Western Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. The first engagement with children took place at Groendal in Franschhoek in the Western Cape from 27-28 March 2017, in partnership with RAPCAN, The Lords Acre Mission and Youth Empowerment Action. As noted, the Commission also engaged youth in prison at the Groot Drakenstein Prison on 29 March 2017. The second provincial engagement took place at Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Council in Gauteng, in partnership with Media Monitoring Africa and the Junior City Council from 1-2 July 2017. The third provincial engagement took place in Mpumalanga, working in partnership with the Mpumalanga Department of Social Development from 13-14 July 2017. The fourth provincial engagement took place in Eshowe, KwaZulu-Natal working in Partnership with KwaZulu Regional Christian Council on the 25-26 August 2017.



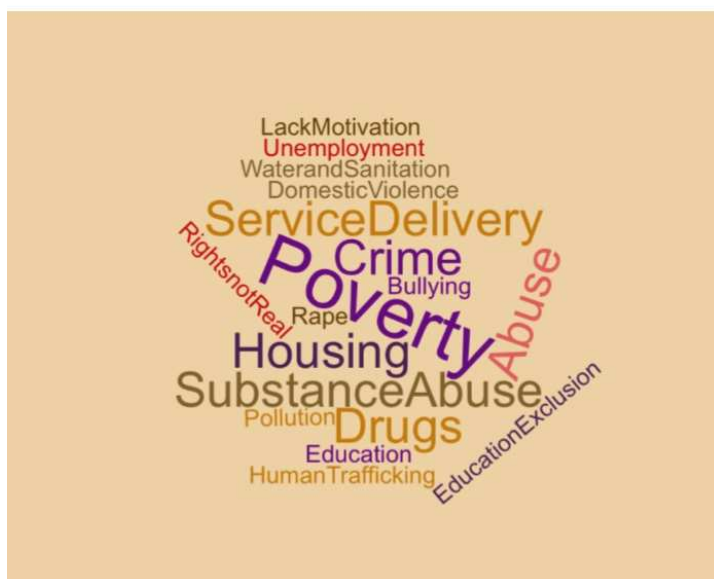
Western Cape workshop — Picture 10: Commissioner Dutton Picture 11: Commissioner Karaan Picture 12: Commissioner Sithole

Feedback

There are two main activities aimed at giving children the opportunity to share their views on the NDP. The first is to establish the core issues of interest or concern to children in each province. The word cloud and table below represents the issues identified by the children.

The speech bubbles, that follow, reflect children thoughts by contrasting the current situation in relation to key issues of concern with their vision for 2030.

Children's priorities





Picture 13: Group photo in Mpumalanga

Western Cape	Gauteng	Mpumalanga	KwaZulu- Natal	Groot Drakenstein
Pollution	Poverty	Teenage Pregnancy	Rape (mostly by known men)	Crime
Drugs	Service Delivery in South Africa	Human Trafficking	Poverty	Rights on paper, they are not real
Education	Unemployment	Excluding kids from education	Physical and emotional abuse (teens)	Household finances
Abuse	Lack of Knowledge	Lack of motivation	Teenage pregnancy	Housing
Housing and toilets	Lack of Skills	Substance abuse	Crime	Water
Service delivery	Substance Abuse	Bullying	Domestic violence	Drugs



Picture 14: Group photo in Western Cape

Western Cape - Education

2017: "Children are being thrown out of class and they feel bad about it"

2030: "We will not be beaten and we will work on tablets and laptops"



Picture s15-16: Vision 2030 from Western Cape

Gauteng - Racism

2017: "Is this the freedom you fought for?"

2030: "We say no to racism!"



Pictures 17-18: Vision 2030 from Gauteng

Mpumalanga - Education

2017: “Same old classrooms, no talent development”

2030: “Children being given the opportunity to go to different forms of school, academic schools, art schools and vocational schools”



Pictures 19-21: Vision 2030 from Mpumalanga

KwaZulu-Natal - Health

2017: “A lot of families suffer losing their loved ones because of HIV.”

2030: “A cure for HIV and other deadly diseases like TB and Cancer can do the country some good.”



Pictures 22-23: Vision 2030 from KwaZulu Natal

Way forward

A seminar is planned to share the information from the first five workshops with the NPC and other relevant stakeholders. Five provincial workshops are planned for 2018 in North West, Limpopo, Northern Cape, Free State and Eastern Cape. At the end of this process, the provincial representatives will convene at the Union Buildings to form an advisory panel to a design team to develop the children’s NDP outputs.