

TABLING OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL YOUTH COMMISSION ACT REPEAL BILL, 2009 BY DR ZL MKHIZE, REMIER OF THE PROVINCE OF KWA-ZULU NATAL
KWAZULU NATAL LEGISLATURE, 5 AUGUST 2009

Madam Speaker, I rise to table the KWAZULU-NATAL YOUTH COMMISSION ACT REPEAL BILL, 2009.

The Bill has as its purpose the repeal of the KwaZulu-Natal Youth Commission Act, 2005 (Act No. 7 of 2005).

The repeal of the Act is in line with the establishment of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) in terms of the National Youth Development Agency Act, 2008, which seeks to coordinate and champion issues of youth development from one consolidated centre.

The former Minister in the Presidency, Dr MantoTshabalala-Msimang, when she briefed members of the media on the NYDA, made the following point in relation to provincial youth commission structures:

“As far as the Provincial Youth Commissions are concerned, Government is liaising with the provinces where the responsibility of repealing Provincial Youth Commission Acts resides. These structures will be integrated into the NYDA gradually in order to mitigate the unintended negative effects prevalent in big bang approaches.”

Madam Speaker, on the 17th April 2009 the Premier of KwaZulu Natal was requested by the Minister in the Presidency to initiate this process we are starting today. This is aimed primarily to bring about the repeal of the KZN Youth Commission Act, 2005.

In summary, Clause 1 of the Bill provides the repeal of the KwaZulu-Natal Youth Commission Act, 2005 (Act No. 7 of 2005). Clause 2 provides for transitional arrangements in relation to assets, liabilities, rights and duties of the disestablished KwaZulu-Natal Youth Commission.

Honourable members, since the first democratic general elections in 1994, we have seen young people taking their rightful place in society. They have been instrumental in bringing about peace, tolerance and political stability in this province.

With the firm support of young people, this government has been able to heighten the reconstruction and redevelopment of this province. Because of their efforts, government has been able to provide basic services to the most vulnerable members of our communities.

It is encouraging that young people are assisting their communities in their capacities as full-time development cadres and volunteers.

As we continue to rebuild this province, we understand that any effort would be meaningless if it fails to ensure the involvement of young people. Young people hold the key to the future.

No doubt, the newly established National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) as announced by the President of the Republic Jacob Zuma will ensure the greater involvement of young people and will strengthen their participation in socio-economic development initiatives.

As you might all be aware, the highlight of this year's Youth Month was the launch and the establishment of the (NYDA) on the 16th June 2009 by the President. NYDA was formed out of the merger of the National Youth Commission (NYC) and Umsobomvu Youth Fund (UYF).

The launch of NYDA marked the beginning of advancement of youth development efforts in a co-ordinated fashion. As a primary custodian of youth development in the country, NYDA will ensure the co-ordination of guidance and support for youth empowerment initiatives across sectors of society and spheres of government.

One area which this government has been focusing on is entrepreneurship. We are encouraged by the increasing number of young people who have started small businesses and some have organized themselves into cooperatives.

With the assistance of NYDA, the provincial government will continue to support youth owned SMME and Cooperatives because this is the only way of creating sustainable communities. NYDA is mandated to embark on initiatives that seek to advance the economic development of young people.

More importantly, NYDA is mandated to develop and co-ordinate the implementation of the Integrated Youth Development Plan and Strategy for the country which will serve as a guiding instrument in advancing youth development at all levels.

The process we are starting in this house would facilitate the dissolution of the Provincial Youth Commission which will now be integrated into the provincial structures of the NYDA.

Madam Speaker I present the KWAZULU-NATAL YOUTH COMMISSION ACT REPEAL BILL, 2009 to this Honourable House.

I thank you.

Ends

Mulalo Africa Tshipembe

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"It seems to me that for us as South Africa and KwaZulu-Natal; we are called upon to hold each other's hands and make a fresh start, building on what we have already achieved - a South Africa of our dreams. This is therefore my call to all the people of KwaZulu-Natal - to embrace this new HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE and make a fresh start together as one people," Dr Zweli Mkhize, Premier of KwaZulu-Natal