



National Youth NGOs Conference

Hosted by
The Youth Development Network
(30 March – 02 April 2009)

In partnership with

National Youth Commission, South African NGO Coalition, and the National Development Agency

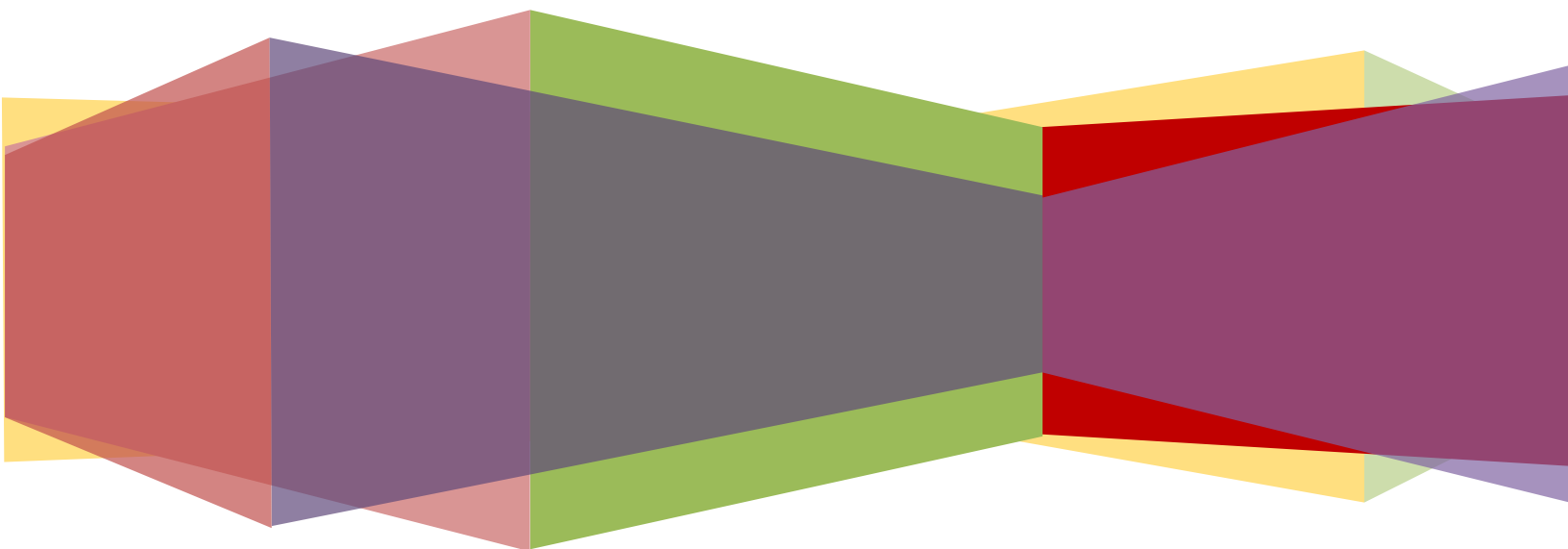


TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION ONE.....	2
DAY 1 OF THE CONFERENCE.....	2
1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. RATIONALE	2
3. PRESENTATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE.....	3
4. CONFERENCE PROCESS	3
5. WELCOME NOTE.....	4
6. OVERVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE	4
7. OPENING ADDRESS.....	4
8. OFFICIAL OPENING.....	5
SECTION TWO	5
DAY 2 OF THE CONFERENCE.....	5
9. CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS ON DAY 2.....	5
10. COMMISSIONS ON DAY 2.....	7
DAY 3 OF THE CONFERENCE.....	12
11. PRESENTATIONS ON DAY 3	12
12. COMMISSIONS ON DAY 3.....	14
SECTION THREE	18
DAY 4 OF THE CONFERENCE.....	18
13. DISCUSSION ON THE WAY-FORWARD.....	18
14. RESOLUTION AND DECLARATIONS	19
15. CONCLUDING REMARKS	21

LAST PAGES - ATTENDANCE LIST

SECTION ONE

DAY 1 OF THE CONFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Youth Development Network (YDN), established in 1998, is a network of six youth development Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in South Africa that seek to address challenges facing young people in the areas of skills training, youth entrepreneurship and community youth development.

In the quest to meet its mandate for youth development, the organisation, in partnership with the National Youth Commission (NYC), National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO), hosted a four day conference aimed at looking into the diverse issues affecting youth development NGOs in the country. The conference, themed “*Strengthening and creating space for Youth NGOs*” took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 30 March 2009 to 2 April 2009 and was attended by representatives from ___ youth development NGOs and government officials responsible for youth development from across the country.¹

The conference included a number of key presentations, including a research paper commissioned by the YDN. This study titled “*What is the status and role of Youth NGOs in the current democratic South Africa*” formed the basis of the conference. The conference facilitated the interaction of the Youth NGOs and the sector’s key stakeholders and government agencies in discussing the major challenges faced by the Youth NGOs today.

2. RATIONALE

In the past, the South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO) was an institution by virtue of its mandate responsible for coordinating conferences. It enabled NGOs not only to voice their issues, but also to share practices and experiences. Dwindling financial resources that have over the years affected most, if not all, NGOs impacted significantly on coordinating structures such that events where NGOs meet and share their experiences and best practices rarely happen. The consequence of the changing situation is that few NGO gatherings are target based or based on specific sectors.

This conference provided a unique opportunity where NGOs dealing with youth development challenges converged to discuss issues, decide on a way forward and set goals to achieve key development objectives. Given that many conferences within the youth sector are often held to discuss matters affecting young people and little time is spent on discussing institutional and policy matters affecting the Youth NGOs, one of the key discussion items centred on the

¹ A complete list of delegates and participating organisations are attached as an appendix.

institutional status of NGOs. The conference had three primary objectives, namely; to develop strategies for strengthening the youth sector; clarify the role and the relevancy of NGOs in the new dispensation and to create a platform for sharing practices around organizational sustainability;

3. PRESENTATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE

Being a national conference, a number of presentations were made by representatives from the different sectors of society, this, being, the youth NGO sector, government and the private sectors. The aim was to address the diverse concerns of the youth sector, which have seen some youth NGOs closing their operations.

The list of presentations included:

- The Status and role of Youth NGOs in the current democratic South Africa – a presentation of the findings of the study;
- Social Security and Labour Market Activation Policies for Youth;
- Private and Government sector Approach to Youth Development;
- The implications of the NPO Act on NGOs;
- The African Perspective on Youth Development;
- The Role of NGOs in the Professionalisation of Youth Work;
- The Role of the Youth NGOs and Best Practice models in the current democratic South Africa and in SADC;
- Sustaining Relations between Youth NGOs and Funders (various speakers contributed to this topic).

This report contains all the key discussions, outputs of commissions and resolutions.

4. CONFERENCE PROCESS

The conference consisted of individual presentations; questions and clarifications on topics by presenters and commissions to develop recommendations. Each of the speakers presented an abstract based on the specific topic assigned to him/her.

The delegates were allowed an opportunity to discuss specific topical issues in their commissions which was extended to the plenary sessions. The conference concluded with the adoption of resolutions.

5. WELCOME NOTE

The opening and welcome of delegates was done by the Youth Development Network Chairperson, Ms Linda McClure, who noted that despite the existence of policy and regulatory frameworks with the stated aim of strengthening the youth development sector, the sector appears to be weaker and less coordinated than in the past. The impact of this was a decline in the improvement in the lives of young people. The important role of partnerships between the NGO, government and private sectors are critical in understanding the causes for the weakening of the sector. These partnerships could also assist youth organisations to maximise the impact of their work through better cooperation and coordination.

She further noted the extremely high level of unemployment (65%) amongst employable young people as an indicator of the challenges facing young people in South Africa. She appealed for closer cooperation between youth organisations, government and the private sector to find solutions.

6. OVERVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE

Giving an overview of the conference, the Executive Director of the Youth Development Network, Mr. Kenneth Thlaka, provided a brief background of the YDN before providing the motivation for organisations to host this conference. He stated that the conference was informed by the research study commissioned by the Youth Development Network that looked into the current status of Youth NGOs in the country. He stated that the study has highlighted a number of issues that need to be taken seriously by the Youth NGO sector if it is to continue to be effective in its work.

7. OPENING ADDRESS

The opening address was delivered by Ms. Nomi Nkondlo, the Chairperson of the National Youth Commission (NYC). She commended the YDN for hosting an important event at this point in time. She noted that the NYC was shaped and informed by the work done in the youth NGO sector. One of their key roles was to work with partners and in this regard the NYC and the YDN have collaborated on a number of fronts.

Ms Nkondlo reflected on the role of the NGO youth sector post 1994 and in working with a democratic government on the complimentary and contradictory role that they had to play. NGO's must define their role both in South Africa and the region. The role of the NGOs in the region was highlighted and reference made to the fact that South Africa emerged as the deputy president of the Pan African Youth Movement which was resuscitated in 2008. South African youth should play a role in their own country and the region and engage in the youth development discourse as well as share best practices across the region.

The speaker also indicated that one of the limitations of the NYC was that it is not in a position to enforce the National Youth Development policy framework.

Referring to challenges the speaker noted that the challenges facing youth in South Africa were the high rate of unemployment as well as the impact of HIV and AIDS on the youth. What was needed was a scientific enquiry and evidence-based data to back up and support youth work and advocacy campaigns. In addition, the professionalisation of youth development work is critical to pursue. There is a need for urgency and scale. There is no time to focus on small interventions and there is a need to ensure that programmes absorb many more youth.

8. OFFICIAL OPENING

The Chief Whip of the ANC in the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Council, Mr. Moses Maseko, welcomed all delegates on behalf of the mayor of the Municipality and wished the YDN and delegates success in the deliberations and decisions.

SECTION TWO

DAY 2 OF THE CONFERENCE

9. CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS ON DAY 2

On the second day of the conference, six presentations in a set of two sessions were made.

1st Session

The first session of the day was chaired by Dr. Saadhna Panday, senior research specialist at the Human Sciences Research Council. The presentations during this session were:

- The status and Role of Youth NGOs in the current democratic South Africa.
- Youth NGOs and the current legislative policy framework.
- Social Security and Labour Market Activation Policies for Youth.

2nd Session

The second session was chaired by Mr. Jo Galaolaoloe Didibeng, the Director of the Southern African Association of Youth Clubs (SAAAYC). The presentations that were made during this session are:

- Private and government sector approach to youth development – presentation of research findings.
- Implication of the NPO Act on NGOs
- The African perspective on youth development

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATIONS ON DAY 2

The first presentation was made by Dr. Marinda Weideman, an independent consultant, and consisted of the research findings of a study into “the status and role of youth NGOs in current South Africa”. This study formed the basis for the conference.

The second presentation on youth and current legislation was made by Ms. Bernice Hlagala, who is the head of the Youth Desk in the Presidency. She dealt with the progress into the process of establishing the National Youth Development Agency.

The third presentation dealing with youth and social security was done by Ms. Isobel Fry, the Director of Studies in Poverty and Inequalities institute (SPII).

The fourth presentation dealing with private and government sector support for youth development was delivered by Mr. Hlanga Mqushulu who is the Lobbying and Advocacy Manager of the Umsobomvo Youth Fund. The paper was the outcomes of government and private sector research studies into the various resource options available to youth development organisations from government and the private sector.

The fifth presentation was done by Mr. Tshepo Mashiyane, the Deputy Director in the NPO Directorate, Department of Social Development. His presentation focused on the NPO Act and its implications to NGOs.

The sixth and final presentation for the second day was on the African perspective on youth development. It was delivered by Professor Mzobanzi Mboya, the Advisor on Education and Training at the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).

Following the presentations, delegates posed a number of questions to the presenters. Below is a summarised list of the questions:

KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESENTERS	
1. How were the 20 Youth Development Organizations’ (YDOs) selected for participation in the research study commissioned by the YDN?	2. Did the research on the youth NGOs focus on Section 21 Companies that provide and NGO type services?
3. What does the “2-year” life span mean as contained in the report when it speaks about the average life of an YDO?	4. Who is expected to take up and act on the recommendations in the research report on the status of YDO?
5. Did the literature review of the YDO sustainability research include the programmes that YDOs are engaged in and the scale on which they are involved?	6. What role does SAYC play in the selection of YDOs in the research on status?
7. What about the involvement of private sector organisations?	8. Will provincial youth commissions remain in place during the inception/phase-in of the NYDA?
9. How did the political youth organisations participate? What emerged was their contribution to strengthening and creating space for Youth NGOs?	10. How does the strategy of “opposition” as opposed to “engagement” impact on the sustainability of YDOs?
11. Did the research also cover the rural areas of the Eastern Cape where there are extreme	12. To what extent did the research on social security and labour market activation look

cases of poverty and a lack of institutional support?	into the unequal distribution of land ownership?
13. Is the NYDA based in all 9 provinces in the same way as the NYC is?	14. Will the new NYDA reach all parts of the country?
15. What will be the role of the NYDA, bearing in mind that there are many other agencies doing implementation? Should state organisations not be involved in monitoring and support?	16. How will it be ensured that local government institutions will not renege on their responsibilities and programmes for youth development in view of the establishment of the NYDA as an implementing agency?
17. Why are issues affecting foreign nationals and those related to migrancy not addressed by YDOs, and if it is on their agendas why is it not given priority?	18. How did the UYF arrive at the implications for YDOs as a result of the poor expenditure of budgets by government departments on the youth sector?
19. How does the directorate of NPOs ensure or assess or ensure that NGOs remain alive after they have registered under the NPO Act and what benefits and care are available for them consequent to their registration?	20. How did the UYF arrive at the implications for YDOs as a result of the poor expenditure of budgets by government departments on the youth sector?

One of the key comments made following the presentations was that government departments mainly target their funding of NGOs at campaigns and awareness programmes and very little is directed toward developmental and sustainable efforts.

10. COMMISSIONS ON DAY 2

3rd Session

During this session, the Conference delegates were divided into four commissions. Each commission was given a theme based on the papers delivered by presenters during the previous two sessions. Each commission had a facilitator who managed the commission proceedings. A set of questions specific to the theme of the commission guided the discussions. Key points and recommendations from the discussions were recorded and reported in plenary. The following were the themes for the commissions, the guiding questions and the outcomes of the deliberations:

Commission 1: Assessment of the Youth Sector

Questions for the commission

- a. What is the current status of youth NGOs?
- b. What are the causes of the state of youth NGOs?
- c. How relevant are the programmes of youth NGOs in the current dispensation?
- d. How can the status of youth NGOs be improved?

Current status of Youth NGOs

- Tougher because of more competition; increased pressure for resources. NGOs face closing down
- Lack of stability, too much movement, interferes with impact of service delivery
- Absence of professional practitioner within the sector. No grading or career path. Can I make it a career?

- Divisions within the sector, no comprehensive approach, not targeted and integrated, just co-existence
- Confusion between development and politics (example of food parcels)
- Huge subsidies for FETs, which are flourishing, cuts off legs for NGOs' constituencies
- Lack of skills, M&E, impact assessment and thereafter no vision for exit strategy
- Government support often does not go beyond events. Where is sustainability and follow up of projects? No strategic thinking. Centres are being built but not managed. Budgets are squandered.
- Issue of recognition. Government doesn't engage enough, the sector has to engage. There is no certainty for funding, even for credible implementers.
- Government dysfunctionnalities are a hindrance. It seems like we are begging and asking for favours when we interact with government.
- Lack of standards and training opportunities for staff to become youth practitioners. Capacity building is a vague notion; it needs to be specialized, which will bring recognition.
- Government doesn't take the sector seriously, whose fault is it?

Positives:

- Youth industry is the future of the country, can be repositioned. Leadership must be provided and complement government. What can civil society initiate?
- Reasons for involvement: such programmes made a difference in our own youth. There's passion, determination, belief that it must work. Many disappointments, but enough successes to make it worthwhile because these are life changing. Give meaning to the lives of practitioners, brings a human and social component.

Causes of the current state of Youth NGOs

- Needs of youth sometimes don't correspond to NGOs' programmes. We are too prescriptive
- Lack of information sharing. Publish our resources; put them in the public domain for others' use. The sector is too fragmented. We must provide united leadership.
- Sector is a stepping stand for political aspirations, more glamorous
- Big NGOs should help and partner with smaller NGOs => strengthening, OD, appear together
- Need leadership at national level, need for a light to follow
- NGOs need not fear change.
- Too many NGOs are just surviving, some insignificantly. Who spends time thinking and strategizing? We manage crisis a lot of the time.
- Brain drain, staff retention at all levels. Hard to replace the departure of organisational knowledge
- Other sectors think NGO work is sub-standard, that you could not get a job elsewhere. Need to break the "welfare" and "charity" industry, that negative perception of being "do-gooders" only.
- For every 1 good NGO, there are another 10 that are doing rubbish.

Relevance of the programmes of youth NGOs in the current dispensation

- Very broad a question...
- Relationship of youth with NGO sector is positively different from that with parents, teachers, "people in power", etc...
- Provides the space to go beyond or outside your traditional institutions
- Very, if they are informed by the needs of the communities / youth.
- Need to review programmes regularly; are they outcome based? Are they still relevant in a rapidly changing context?

Suggestions to improve the status of youth NGOs

- Professionalize it, create career paths and aspirations within sector
- NGOs should be able to fulfil the mandate and play the role of an agency, help the National Agency to fulfil its mandate.
- Reposition the sector in terms of its professionalization, good governance, management and accountability standards
- The sector should not be complacent with itself. Delivery and quality of organisations should not be allowed to be substandard because we are social, not-for-profit, however difficult and complex the context of our work may be.
- NGOs should be run like businesses and quality standards should be adopted as part of sector policy.
- Some sort of “ZEWO” quality certification (similar to the ISO 9001 certification for corporate companies) should be developed

Commission 2: Policy and legislative implications toward NGOs strength

Questions for the commission

- a. What are current policy and legislative implications facing youth NGOs?
- b. How could NGOs ensure policies are being implemented?
- c. How best can youth NGOs influence policies and monitor their implementation?

Current policy and legislative implications facing youth NGOs

- There is a need for government to come up with intervention strategies to ensure the sustainability of youth NGOs;
- Ensure capacity of youth NGOs (NYDA);
- Bureaucracy of applying for NPO benefit makes it inaccessible

Suggestions for how NGOs can ensure that policies are being implemented

- Have a more structured way of interacting with NGOs;
- The NYDA should not be seen as a duplicate of UYF or YC (integration of best practices from the two organisations);
- The NYDA should have a strong local presence.

Suggestions for how best youth NGOs can influence policies and monitor their implementation

- Integrated youth voice that is coordinated by YDN and SANGOCO (reputable NGOs) – this should be in a youth forum. The youth forum should meet bi-monthly
- The youth should come up with structures to address policy, advocacy and lobbying;
- The NYDA should provide support to youth NGOs, even on matters such as applications for NPO registration

Commission 3: Private and government sector approach to youth development

Questions for the commission

- a. What is the role of the private sector in strengthening youth NGOs?
- b. What is the role of government in strengthening youth NGOs?
- c. Which mechanisms can youth NGOs apply to forge and build relationships with the private and government sector?

Observations

- Private sector institutions align themselves with certain causes
- Identify companies and set up partnerships with companies
- The CSI strategies that could ensure that youth NGOs are identified

Role of the private sector in strengthening youth NGOs

- Private sector not playing a big role
- Private is for profit
- If they give money, they need exposure
- They would rather pay penalties than spend the 1%
- There is a reluctance to fund youth NGOs
- CSI managers sit on top of budgets. At the last minute when they have to account for their spending, they do once-off big events and give t-shirts and take pictures.
- Not sustainable support given
- They operate in a comfort zone and are not prepared to go the extra mile
- They do things on their terms, however this makes business sense
- That many businesses will support different causes

Role that youth NGOs should play to forge partnerships with private sector

- We should tailor our programmes as NGOs so that we could get support from businesses
- We must understand that both NGOs and businesses have visions
- Funds are allocated to certain projects
- Balancing act with private business
- The vision and mission of NGOs should not be compromised
- Rather go for partnerships

The question on whether youth NGOs were capacitated enough to forge partnerships with the private sector came up it. The following were some of the responses:

- Need skills
- Approach funders that climbed the corporate ladder
- What works for some NGOs does not mean that it will work for other NGOs
- Economic sector are the first people to withdraw (during economic meltdown)
- NGOs should have systems that allow the private sector to be interested in them
- NGOs need to be transparent in their operations
- Like GAAP – financial statements

Role of government in strengthening youth NGOs

- Legislation
- Regulation
- Check compliance
- Information sharing (marketing)
- Government must not use technology to the detriment of the masses
- Capacity building / quality (nature and focus)
- Give contact details
- Government should clearly define what its role is

Mechanisms youth NGOs can apply to forge and build relationships with the private and government sector

- NGOs should partner with government
- Have solidarity to negotiate with government, like having a national youth organisation (Alliance)

- Implementation of the policy

Commission 4: The African perspective on Youth development

Questions for the commission

- a. What is the practice in Africa on youth development and what are the global and continental policies, legislative frameworks and programmes?
- b. What opportunities and benefits for youth NGOs presented by these global and regional interventions
- c. How can we domesticate these regional interventions?
- d. What role can South African Youth NGOs play in strengthening the regional youth sector?

Practice in Africa on youth development and what are the global and continental policies, legislative frameworks and programmes

- African Continent did not have a common framework, and previously used international practice until the adoption of African Charter in 2006
- Currently, legal instruments are being reviewed
- Continental level, e.g. Pan African Youth Body, are focusing on the implementation of Youth Charter
- In most African Countries, civil society is diminishing due to funding challenges and govt. taking over youth development
- GLOBAL PRACTICE
 - YD Is driven by private sector and civil society,
 - Govt. is less involved
 - World programme of action adopted and supposed to be implemented by the UN

Recommendations

- Youth Employment Summit
- Effective Use of Councils
- Countries must comply with African Youth Charter
- Depoliticization of Youth Councils
- Resuscitate the voice of Youth Development Civil Society

Opportunities and benefits for youth NGOs presented by these global and regional interventions

- Civil society benefits are limited
- The continent has the African Youth Charter
- Regional integration brings benefits which are economic and social
- Funding is available
- Opportunity is available from global and regional interventions for capacity building
- Gain Best practice and customized according to African Dynamics

Recommendations

- Government should bring youth workers to participate in global and regional platforms
- Civil Society should have more interaction and share information.
- Rectification of the Youth Charter
- Develop a strong network for youth development civil society
- Review SAYC, Revitalize and Strengthen it
- Formulate Youth Development Network independent from government funding

Domesticating regional interventions

- When policies are developed, regional intervention should be considered
- Apply reference method to customize interventions
- Concrete proposals and resolutions from conferences such as this one should have drivers
- Fair share of benefits to all Civil Society

Role that South African Youth NGOs can play in strengthening the regional youth sector

- SA should play a lead role for interventions for the whole continent of Africa
- Peace, stability and growth must be led by SA
- SA must establish a championing lead youth org. to facilitate regional strengthening process.
- SA must play a role of gathering resources
- Assist with economic and social development for Africa

COMMENTS ON THE COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS ON DAY 2

A comment from the floor was that there could have been some input on the SAYC as it came up a number of times during previous discussions, including the previous day.

***Response:** One of the members of the commission to whom this comment was directed said that their group agreed that the youth sector was dysfunctional and fragmented. The same group also felt that they would not want to leave wounded people behind by opening up issues that are generally accepted about the status of the youth sector.*

Another comment was that there was no elaboration on the local presence of the NYDA – how it will exist at a local level as opposed to being a national and provincial institution.

***Response:** A provincial presence of the NYDA would bring it closer to the dynamics in a specific province. Delivery will also be compromised if it is only represented at a national level.*

DAY 3 OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference coordinator provided a brief recap of the previous day's proceedings and summarised the outcomes of the commissions' recommendations. The programme for the day was presented and the session chairpersons and presenters introduced.

11. PRESENTATIONS ON DAY 3

1st Session

The first session on day 2 was chaired by Mr. Alfred Hlaka, who is the Director of the Establishment for Comprehensive Youth Development (ECYD). The presentations were:

- The Role of NGOs in the Professionalisation of Youth Work – two presentations.

- The role of NGOs and best practice models in the current democratic South Africa and the SADC.

2nd Session

The second session of the day was chaired by Ms Susie Mabie, the Acting CEO of the Transnet Foundation. A panel of four presenters addressed the same topic, “Sustaining relations between Youth NGOs and Funders” but with each offering a different perspective.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENTATIONS ON DAY 3

The first presentation on the second day discussed the role of NGOs in the professionalisation of youth work. The presentation was done by two presenters, Mr. Michael Schoole who is the National Coordinator of the South African Youth Workers Association and Ms. Magdalene Moonsamy, Deputy Director in the Department of Social Development.

The second presentation explored the challenges faced by funders and Youth NGOs in establishing partnerships. It also focused on expectations from corporate funders and how youth NGOs can adapt to the changing funding environment

Following the presentations delegates posed a number of questions to the presenters. The following is a summary of the questions following the first session of presentations:

KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE PRESENTERS	
1. If young traders cross the border to do business, why is SADC not making it easier for them to conduct their trade?	2. Why does SADC take important decisions when young people are not part of these discussions and decisions?
3. What has SAYWA achieved towards the professionalisation of youth work?	4. What qualifies as youth work? Does it adopt a holistic approach?
5. Who is SAYWA’s constituency in South Africa? Who do they collect their views from and to whom do they account to?	6. Is there a registry of youth workers as a first step toward professionalizing the sector?
7. From a funder’s perspective, is it advisable to have many organisations on one platform speaking on issues with one voice?	8. What role do funders play in ensuring the sustainability of organisations beyond financing projects?
9. What do funders look for in partnerships with NGOs especially where no money is involved (an example was used of an IT company offering IT support)?	10. What made it possible for organisations to build sustainability (those that have succeeded), and what are the mechanisms?
11. Is setting up NGOs to create employment not also a way of addressing a need?	12. What are the reasons why SA youth NGOs have such low credibility?
13. How do funders play a continuous role in sustaining projects after an NGO has moved out of a project (after it has been implemented and closed off)?	14. Why do funders impose such stringent conditions on NGOs (considering that they played such a critical role in dismantling apartheid and transforming the country into a democracy)?

12. COMMISSIONS ON DAY 3

3rd Session

Conference delegates were divided into four commissions. Each commission was given a theme based on the papers delivered by presenters during the previous two sessions. Each commission had a facilitator who managed the commission proceedings. A set of questions specific to the theme of the commission guided the discussions. Key points and recommendations from the discussions were recorded and reported in plenary. The following commissions were formed, the themes for each, the guiding questions and the outcome of their deliberations:

Commission 1: Youth Work Professionalisation

Questions for the commissions

- a. What Value can professionalization/professionalizing of Youth Work add to the Youth NGO's?
- b. Which stakeholders are important in ensuring sustainability of youth work as a profession?
- c. What role can youth NGO's play in assisting the coordination of youth work professionalization?

Value of professionalization/professionalizing of Youth Work add to the Youth NGO's

- Raise the standard of program content
- Standardization of work in the sector will build trust between the sector and funders
- Recognition of youth work among other sectors
- Increase sector coordination
- Will have quantifiable standards
- Open new career paths/ opportunities for potential youth workers

Important stakeholders are important in ensuring sustainability of youth work as a profession

- Social development; NGO's sector; Other Government departments; Agency and Civil Society

Role that youth NGO's can play in assisting the coordination of youth work professionalization

- Youth workers / NGO's will be part of the process
- SAYWA to coordinate the NGO
- The declaration from Durban conference be adapted as a framework for the way forward

Commission 2: Best Practice models in the current democratic South Africa

Questions for the commissions

- a. What are the best practice models in youth development?
- b. What are the factors contributing to best practice models?
- c. How could Best Practice Models be promoted amongst Youth NGOs?

Best practice models in youth development

- Good governance structures

- Community driven approach has been strong previously and this has been very successful.
- The community has the resources that we could use without us getting out to other resources that are not in the community.

Factors contributing to best practice models

- Take into account the needs of young people and also involving young people.
- Processes conceptualized in the boardroom don't work as it needs to also involve young people.
- Research and needs analysis before action is needed.
- Have a sustainable type of a model, like bring in the commercial world and the corporate works.
- Volunteer code of ethics and they will be subjected to submit annual reports.
- We have private sector creating NGOs.
- Makes the sector much more organised and one thing and the private sector could also be involved and government could also make an input.
- Having the dialogue going with the donors where awards could be established to assist with the code of ethics.
- Have support mechanisms to put in place.
- Use best practice to standardize some practices

Promotion of Best Practice Models amongst Youth NGOs

- Advocating for young people should not be politically driven.
- Begin to localize the youth work and to what are we influencing the local economic development plans in our municipalities.
- Monitoring and evaluation of impact of its work at the ground and these should be regularly, are we on track are we on target
- That code of ethics should be dual for youth organizational and youth workers and e.g. SAYWA should be driving the provision of the code of ethics.
- We need the adoption from the Dept. of Social Development
- We are addressing both grass roots and established organisations and this could be voluntary and it can play a role of promoting the youth development sector.
- CoE should not be used as a must, but to be included in the registration process of the NPO and when the NPO s successful the orgs is given the CoE.
- Bigger organisations mentoring smaller orgs
- Continuously have a platform where we come and call organisations to come and present their organisations. Conferences are more external people speaking to us than us discussing amongst our selves.
- We must leverage on the steps that have been taken by soon to be disbanded UYF.
- Build capacity to an extent that there is an organisation that comes to mind. Guard against people buying favours.

Challenges to developing/implementing best practice models

- We tend to operate at national level and not going into provincial level.
- Stigma around YNGO and if you are given resources you can't account.
- We need to prove as a sector that we are able to solve our problems.
- Are the existing code of ethics from SAYWA needs redo.
- We are not showcasing the good models that we have. And the funders only interact with bad experiences.
- We can't be talking about best practice models if we don't talk about the learning institutions.

- It is important as a sector, there are no frameworks and you can criticize government and this doesn't need to have admin burden to it.
- We can have good intentions with the CoE and the issue may be one of intended results and we must understand us of not having a hand that will control everyday in the community.

Commission 3: Sustaining Relations between Youth NGOs and Funders

Questions for the commissions

- a. Reflect on the current relations between Donors & youth NGO's
- b. How could NGO- Donor relations be improved?
- c. Are youth NGO's empowered to build & sustain donor- recipient relations? If not, how could it be done??

Current relations between Donors & youth NGO's

- Currently the relationship is not impressive
- NGO's should be transparent as at the moment donors are dissatisfied (corporate governance)
- There is a MISTRUST existing in funders
- NGO's are changing their core business (Vision, Mission & Values) to suit donors and their requirements and dictates

Suggestions to how NGO- Donor relations could be improved

- Creating a partnership relation opposed to donor- recipient
- NGO's should look at the NPO (non-profitable organization) framework as a guiding tool
- Corporate Governance
- Transparency
- E.G. financial reports; annual reports; registered board of trustees
- NGO's should be represented in forums such as (Grantors/ CSI forums- corporate social investments)

Building sustainable donor- recipient relations

- Youth NGOs are not empowered to do this
- NGO's are experiencing brain-drain, as they are finding it difficult to retain qualified & experienced staff
- NGO's are lacking experienced and capacitated professionals
- There should be a mechanism to foster a partnership relationship which includes a common purpose with donors
- NGO's need to start questioning motives for interventions
- NGO's must partake in development (mutual) of Grant Agreements/ memorandums of understanding, not accept imposed documents

Commission 4: Youth NGOs sustainability

Questions for the commissions

- a. What is our understanding of sustainability?
- b. What is the role of private sector in youth NGO sustainability?
- c. What is the role of government in youth NGO sustainability?
- d. What are the sustainability mechanisms that should be pursued?

Understanding of sustainability

- Internal and External sustainability
- Take into account socio, economic and political environment
- Maintaining expertise and assets
- Having ability to maintain our work and its relevance
- Compliance to socio, economic and political environment

Elements of sustainability

- Social relevance- in terms of current needs
- Constant research as a tool to sustain relevance
- Evaluation and Monitoring as a strength, and tool
- A need to focus and have a Niche
- Have relevant skills & capacity
- Maintain the link between the organization and the people service transparently (reporting to the community)
- Compliance and Good Governance
- Board members being agents of mobilization of resources for sustainability
- Board members as watch dogs of good governance and accountability
- Balance of value and skills in our boards
- Ability to maintain and retain talent and document our work

Role of private sector in youth NGO sustainability

- Assist with funding. Capacity building, having knowledge of sector
- **NB:** We are non-governmental organizations not private sectors, we are not agents of investment arms, or entry points of business.

Role of government in youth NGO sustainability

- Provide legislation and policies in terms of Constitutional Arrangement
- Enforce compliance, assist to develop capacity to curb ignorance to strengthen compliance
- Allow youth NGO to be implementing agents
- Grade and provide standards
- Monitor and review compliance
- Create an enabling environment for youth NGO's

Sustainability mechanisms that should be pursued

- Empower the whole organization not individuals, pay better
- Have knowledge of their working environment
- Provide necessary capacity where government cannot perform
- Need to be transparent and accountable
- Need to comply to necessary legislation

Alliance/ Forum/One Voice

- There is a need to have a structure to engage in policy or legislation formulation
- The alliance should assist to document, share knowledge
- The alliance should inform youth development
- The alliance will assist with capacity, curriculum, and good governance
- Give clear impression of what youth NGO is about
- Assist with lobbying, collective funding and collective influence

COMMENTS FROM THE PLENARY AFTER REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSIONS WERE DELIVERED

Delegate: Professionalisation of youth work will raise standards and improve trust and confidence in stakeholder relationships. It will further raise knowledge to implement programmes effectively.

Delegate: Professionalisation will create a career path for youth development practitioners.

Delegate: The role that youth NGOs play is central to the solution. They know the sector and the stakeholder's best and they understand the challenges. SAYWA can play an important role in this. In respect of professionalizing youth development work, there is a Standards Generating Body to register a SAQA accredited qualification.

The conference deliberated extensively on the need for a structure (either in the form of an alliance or a format that would fit the purpose) to look into developmental issues for youth NGOs. It was pointed out that this did not imply a challenge to the existence of the South African Youth Council (SAYC) – the challenges within SAYC need to be identified and addressed. At the conclusion of the discussions there was consensus to establish a task team that would assess if there was a need for an alliance or similar platform of youth NGOs nationally to address youth issues.

The resolution put forward was that:

That YDN, SANGOCO, SAYC, SAYWA and NYC should continue with further engagement and scientific enquiry to see whether there is a need for an Alliance and if so what formation is required to address the issues facing youth and what relationship it would have with SAYC.

Way Forward:

YDN should take the lead in forming a task team with above organisations to do a mini feasibility study to explore options and see whether the Alliance is a feasible option.

SECTION THREE

DAY 4 OF THE CONFERENCE

13. DISCUSSION ON THE WAY-FORWARD

The conference coordinator introduced the programme for the day and introduced the chairperson for the final two sessions of the conference.

The chairperson opened the session:

A proposal was made to amend the resolution to establish a task team to investigate the feasibility of a youth NGO coordinating structure. The motivation for this was that the resolution was done at the end of the day when people were tired and the youth NGOs had not had enough time to consider what might be the best way forward.

After very vigorous debate and some disagreements strongly voiced, a solution was finally accepted. At the conclusion of the plenary discussion, resolutions were presented and were proposed for adoption.

14. RESOLUTION AND DECLARATIONS

The conference adopted the following resolutions:

Noting that there is:

1. A lack of stability of youth NGOs that affects the impact of service delivery
2. A lack of compliance from youth NGOs with the NPO Act
3. A lack of capacity to manage youth NGOs effectively
4. A lack of coordination of youth NGOs
5. Not all youth NGOs are being informed about processes affecting youth development
6. No clear relationship between youth NGOs and the private sector, leading to a lack of support from the private sector
7. The relationship with funders has been tarnished with some bad practices and as a result funders have raised concern about the effectiveness of youth NGOs
8. Lack of coordination of youth workers
9. The role and progress made by SAYWA and DSD in the professionalisation of youth work. However, the process has been very slow
10. A lack of sustainability of youth NGOs leading to a breakdown in the sector
11. A lack of sharing and learning of good practices of youth NGOs

Therefore, we resolve that:

We establish a youth NGOs coordinating mechanism with the view of strengthening and creating space for youth NGOs.

YDN and SANGOCO to take the lead in establishing a NGO Youth Alliance that will address the challenges facing youth and youth NGOs, and explore methods of mobilising the youth sector throughout the country.

The established Youth NGOs coordinating structure will:

1. Embark on a massive capacity building programme for youth NGO's
2. Re-position youth NGOs in terms of the professionalisation of youth work
3. Position ourselves to partner with National Youth Development Agency on a programmatic basis
4. Create a continuous effective platform for advocacy and lobbying on behalf of the youth sector
5. Develop youth programmes that can attract private sector support without compromising the needs of young people
6. Develop a code of conduct for youth NGO's
7. Facilitate the establishment of a Youth Development Charter
8. Lobby for the ratification of the African Youth Charter
9. Play a critical role in strengthening SAYC and SAYWA
10. Have a continuous engagement with funders (government, private and foreign) in order to resuscitate the relationship with them

It was further resolved that:

DSD continues to support SAYWA so that it can execute its role in mobilisation of youth workers for professionalization.

It was proposed that all the resolutions be accepted as is.

Proposed by: Mr. Eddie Williams
Programmes Manager: Koinonia Community Centre (Western Cape)

Seconded by: Ms. Lebo Maseloane
Acting CEO: Youth Development Trust

15. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Kenneth Thlaka, Executive Director of the Youth Development Network expressed his appreciation to all the delegates and others who were instrumental in the success of the conference. He made the point that if he were to write a book, it would be on partnerships and stakeholder relationships.

He added that irrespective of what the conference would have decided and resolved to do, the YDN would abide by and work to implement such decisions. He also said that the YDN will work to ensure that the Alliance succeeds in the mandate given to it by the conference and that it will be driven with a “bottom-up” approach” to include all Youth Development Organisations. He concluded by saying that everyone should work toward the strengthening of key partners such as the South African Youth Council and that it was the responsibility of all present to fight against the demise of progressive Youth Development Organisations.

YDN believes it has to engage with all stakeholders including government. “...As we try to create space for youth NGOs we will ensure that we network, partner and collaborate with all stakeholders in the youth development arena. Besides the Alliance we still have a responsibility of our individual organisations, and we have to address these. We need to have a bottom-up approach and the Alliance will need to be strengthened by the NGOs on the ground...

There is a resolution to strengthen the SAYC and we will do this as members of the SAYC and we want it to exist and be strengthened. There are many challenges that await us so we need to work together to address these...”

The final remarks were made by Ms. Nomi Nkondlo, Chairperson of the National Youth Commission. “...As the NYC we understand there are contradictions and these are a source of development. We agree to disagree and that despite our disagreements, we continue to work together. Agreements should not be taken to a point where we polarise ourselves and our relationships with each other. The truth is relative and this view was validated during the conference. Even when we re-think decisions we need to remember that we have to deliver on our promises and commitments, and so we need to deliver on the formation of the youth NGO Alliance. If the youth NGO Alliance is not working we must be able to say this and move forward

NYC will open its doors and be able to work together in implementing work that is in the interest of the youth. We might be in government but we are products of the NGOs so we know what is going on in the sector. As a developmental state, the role of a strong and vibrant NGO sector is indispensable to South Africa’s growth. NGOs must also realise that time will test their work and contributions. In the same way will the Alliance be tested in who it includes and how it delivers...?

CONFERENCE ENDS

Youth Development Network

Attendance Register National NGOs Conference (30 March – 02 April 2009)

No	Name and Surname	Organisation (Position)	Conferencing	
			Date in	Date out
YDN MEMBER ORGANISATIONS				
1.	<i>Ms. Linda McClure</i>	JASA (Managing Director)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
2.	<i>Mr. Dave Lunderstedt</i>	SLOT (Director)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
3.	<i>Mr. Jo Didibeng</i>	SAAYC (Executive Director)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
4.	<i>Mr. Jeff Mkhwanazi</i>	SAAYC (FS Centre Manager)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
5.	<i>Mr. Alfred Hlaka</i>	ECYD (Managing Director)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
CSOs/YOUTH ORGANISATIONS/CBOs				
6.	<i>Mr. Collen Mpyane</i>	National Association of Youth Against Substance and Alcohol Abuse (Executive Director)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
7.	<i>Mr. Eddie Williams</i>	Koinonia Community Centre	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
8.	<i>Ms. Lebo Maseloane</i>	YDT (Executive Director)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
9.	<i>Mr. Muzwakhe Sigudla</i>	Southern African Youth Movement (President)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
10.	<i>Mr. Luyanda Kota</i>	Ikamva Lizezandleni Youth Organisation (Executive Director)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
11.	<i>Mr. Siphon Ngwetsheni</i>	Center for Youth Development (Executive Director)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
12.	<i>Mr. Nicklaus Mojaki</i>	Guidance Education Youth Project (Project Manager)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
13.	<i>Mr. Kholisile Mpophoma</i>	City Year (Programmes Manager)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
14.	<i>Mr. Culverwell Dwowa</i>	SADGA	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
15.	<i>Mr. Jimmy Pitso</i>	Youth Empowerment Network	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
16.	<i>Ms. Kanthie Raidoo</i>	Youth For Christ - KZN	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
17.	<i>Ms. Anisha Panday</i>	Road Traffic Management Corporation	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
18.	<i>Ms. Nozipho Solungwa</i>	Road Traffic Management Corporation	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
19.	<i>Mr. Elwyn Pitt</i>	LoveLife Trust	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
20.	<i>Ms. Thulile Seleka</i>	LoveLife Trust	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
21.	<i>Mr. Viwe Sidali</i>	Eastern Cape Youth Development Board (Chief Executive Officer)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
22.	<i>Ms. Zamandosi Brightness Ndlovu</i>	Karos and Kambro	30 March 2009	02 April 2009

Youth Development Network

Attendance Register National NGOs Conference (30 March – 02 April 2009)

No	Name and Surname	Organisation (Position)	Conferencing	
			Date in	Date out
23.	<i>Mr. Rodrick Mhlongo</i>	HURESIC (Executive Director)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
24.	<i>Mr. Jimmy Gotyana</i>	SANGOCO (President)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
25.	<i>Mr. Daniel Prah</i>	SANGOCO	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
26.	<i>Mr. Sam Baka</i>	SANGOCO	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
27.	<i>Mr. Martin Mande</i>	Xaveri Movement (President)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
28.	<i>Ms. Ndivhuho Sekoba</i>	Child Maintenance Legal Service	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
29.	<i>Mr. Arie Bouwer</i>	Education with Enterprise Trust	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
30.	<i>Mr. Mandla Hanise</i>	Azanian Youth Organisation (National President)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
31.	<i>Mr. Chris Ntuli</i>	National Youth Dialogue - KZN	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
32.	<i>Ms. Delly Ngwenya</i>	National Youth Dialogue - KZN	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
33.	<i>Mr. Solomuzi Mabuza</i>	YMCA - Pietermaritzburg (President)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
34.	<i>Ms. Lulamela Hallam</i>	Karoo Youth Development Network	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
35.	<i>Rev. Mxolisi Sonti</i>	SACC Eastern Cape	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
36.	<i>Mr. Ntuthuko Majazi</i>	SADESMO	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
37.	<i>Mr. Pascal Holliger</i>	Imbewu-Suisse	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
38.	<i>Mr. Michael Schoole</i>	South African Youth Workers Association	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
39.	<i>Mr. Donald Ngonyama</i>	NACCW (Chairperson)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
40.	<i>Mr. A. B. Dithlake</i>	SADC Council of NGOs (General Secretary)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009

Youth Development Network

Attendance Register National NGOs Conference (30 March – 02 April 2009)

No	Name and Surname	Organisation (Position)	Conferencing	
			Date in	Date out
FUNDING INSTITUTIONS				
41.	<i>Ms. Susie Mabie</i>	Transnet Foundation (Acting CEO)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
42.	<i>Mr. Michael Moloto</i>	Transnet Foundation	01 April 2009	01 April 2009
43.	<i>Ms. Theresa Moiloa</i>		31 March 2009	31 March 2009
44.	<i>Ms. Mampe Ntsedi</i>	Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (Programmes Specialist)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
45.	<i>Ms. Mpho Moagi-Vilana</i>	SABC – Youth Dev	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
46.	<i>Mr. Khumbulani Mngadi</i>	SABC – Youth Dev (Youth Development)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
47.	<i>Ms. Manko Tsoehlisi</i>	SABC (Youth Development)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
48.	<i>Mr. Jeffrey Ndumo</i>	Department of Trade and Industry (Chief Director)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
49.	<i>Mr. Daniel Raseluma</i>	National Development Agency (Capacity Building Specialist)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
50.	<i>Mr. Ken Duncan</i>	SSACI (Chief Director)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
51.	<i>Ms. Pearl Vezi</i>	Department of Social Development (Assistant Director – Youth Directorate)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
52.	<i>Mr. Muzimkhulu Miya</i>	Department of Social Development	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
53.	<i>Ms. Magdalene Moonsamy</i>	Department of Social Development	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
54.	<i>Mr. Tshepo Mashiyane</i>	Department of Social Development (Deputy Director – NPO Youth Directorate)	31 March 2009	31 March 2009
55.	<i>Ms. Hlanga Mqushulu</i>	Umsobomvu Youth Fund	31 March 2009	31 March 2009
56.	<i>Prof. Mzobanzi Mboya</i>	NEPAD (Advisor – Education and Training)	31 March 2009	31 March 2009

Youth Development Network

Attendance Register National NGOs Conference (30 March – 02 April 2009)

No	Name and Surname	Organisation (Position)	Conferencing	
			Date in	Date out
YOUTH COMMISSIONS				
57.	<i>Ms. Nomi Nkondlo</i>	National Youth Commission (Chairperson)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
58.	<i>Ms. Margaret Tleane</i>	National Youth Commission (Director – Policy and Programmes)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
59.	<i>Mr. Brutus Malada</i>	National Youth Commission (Manager - Chairperson's Office)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
60.	<i>Mr. Mphela Motimele</i>	National Youth Commission (Manager - Chairperson's Office)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
61.	<i>Mr. Gollith M. Tjia</i>	Limpopo Youth Commission (CEO)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
62.	<i>Mr. Garrith Bezuidenhout</i>	Northern Cape Youth Commission (Chairperson)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
63.	<i>Mr. Lucas Mahoa</i>	Free State Youth Commission (Chairperson)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
64.	<i>Mr. Tebogo Monele</i>	Free State Youth Commission (Acting CEO)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
65.	<i>Ms. Bernice Hlagala</i>	The Presidency (Head of the Youth Desk)	30 March 2009	31 March 2009
RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS				
66.	<i>Ms. Helene Perold</i>	VOESASA (Deputy Director – NPO Youth Directorate)	31 March 2009	01 April 2009
67.	<i>Ms. Rejoice Shumba</i>	VOESASA (Project Co-ordinator)	31 March 2009	02 April 2009
68.	<i>Ms. Isobel Frye</i>	Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (General Secretary)	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
69.	<i>Dr. Saadhna Panday</i>	HSRC (on behalf of Executive Director)	30 March 2009	31 March 2009
70.	<i>Dr. Marinda Weideman</i>	Independent Consultant	31 March 2009	31 March 2009
EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY				
71.	<i>Mr. Moses Maseko</i>	Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (Chief Whip of the ANC)	30 March 2009	30 March 2009
YDN OFFICE				
72.	<i>Kenneth Thlaka</i>		30 March 2009	02 April 2009
73.	<i>Billy Nthelebovu</i>		30 March 2009	02 April 2009
74.	<i>Muzie Yende</i>		30 March 2009	02 April 2009
75.	<i>Claudia Matshepo Sibiya</i>		30 March 2009	02 April 2009
76.	<i>Daniel Thabethe</i>		30 March 2009	02 April 2009
CONSULTANTS/SERVICE PROVIDERS				
77.	<i>Mr. Ronald Petersen</i>	Umhlaba Development Services	30 March 2009	02 April 2009
78.	<i>Ms. Yasmin Jessie Turton</i>	Umhlaba Development Services	30 March 2009	31 March 2009