



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NATIONAL RURAL YOUTH SERVICES CORPS (NARYSEC) PROGRAMME TABLED TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM & RURAL DEVELOPMENT ON 26 MAY 2020

No	Issue raised	Response
1	Was the NARYSEC policy well conceptualised, if yes, how was that done?	<p>Yes, the NARYSEC Policy was well conceptualised and sought to address the socio-economic ills faced by the rural population, i.e. unemployment, poverty and inequality. The original concept document and policy (2010) provided clear objectives and strategic outcomes. The strategic outcomes of the programme in the long term were expected to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- a decline in the level of youth unemployment in rural areas;- an increase in literacy and skills;- an increase in disposable income of youth in rural areas as a result of employment and entrepreneurial opportunities; and- a decreased dependence on transfers from family members working in urban areas. <p>The policy was informed by research and statistics on high unemployment and poverty levels in rural areas. Chapter 6 of the National Development Plan, Vision 2030 accentuated the plight of rural areas and shaped the vision towards a vibrant rural economy.</p> <p>At the time of conceptualisation, 35.2% of South African households (approximately 18 million people), were living in poverty. African households and households in rural areas, especially those headed by women in rural areas, were the most affected. Over half (54%) of South Africa's children lived in poverty" (Paper for Social Welfare).</p>

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		<p>Unemployment in rural areas in 2010 was high as businesses typically did not establish themselves in remote areas. “Unemployment has been severe among women, especially in rural areas, as well as among young people under the age of 24. Nearly a third of black people in this group were unemployed, as were just under 20% of those aged 25 to 34.</p> <p>The fundamental problem of poverty in rural areas was therefore directly linked to high levels of unemployment. This led to a variety of other social problems which are typically associated with poverty. Critical to this problem were the low levels of literacy and scarcity of skills in the rural areas. Much of the literate and skilled people move to urban or industrialized areas in search of better prospects. “Education is one of the most important factors determining employment and thus income. There is a close association between poverty and a lack of education. Illiteracy varies from 27% in metropolitan areas to 50% in rural areas. Illiteracy among coloureds (68%) and Africans (61%) in rural areas is higher than the national average. The lack of education of the head of a household is closely correlated with poverty in households.” (Paper for Social Welfare: 4)</p> <p>Additionally, young people between the ages of 14 to 35 years constituted approximately 40% of the South African population at the time; translating to approximately 19.4 million young people out of a national population of 48.7 million.</p>
2	<p>What institutional mechanisms are in place to ensure its objectives are met?</p>	<p>2.1 Stakeholder mobilisation:</p> <p>Various stakeholders are mobilised around this programme, ranging from the targeted poor rural communities or beneficiaries on the one hand, and service providers and policy makers on the other. The roles of stakeholders will differ at various points of implementation, as will the number of partnership and participation arrangements that will evolve. A broad range of stakeholders has been identified, to balance spatial or sectoral requirements of this project.</p> <p>Institutional arrangements include the following:</p>

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		<p>(a) Department of Higher Education & Training (DHET), through the SETAS, TVET Colleges and the National Skills Fund.</p> <p>(b) Agreements with DHET so that the TVET Colleges will be implementing agents/ training institutions of skills training programmes/ learnerships.</p> <p>(c) Local Municipalities - formed an integral part in the mobilisation and recruitment of youth to the programme.</p> <p>(d) SANDF: Youth Leadership & Development Programme.</p> <p>(e) National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) registered the NARYSEC Programme as a National Youth Service.</p> <p>2.2 Political and strategic institutional arrangements The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is responsible for the overall coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. The Minister will be responsible for engaging the provincial Premiers and MECs who are political champions of rural development to establish sound strategic co-operative governance structures between the National DALRRD and champions (Premiers and MEC's) of rural development in provinces.</p> <p>2.3 Operational and technical institutional arrangements internal to the Department In the operational sphere, the national project team, led by a National Programme Manager or delivery manager, would report to the Director-General and Minister on all matters of the programme. Provincial project teams would be established with all relevant stakeholders, depending on provincial circumstances.</p> <p>The Department recognised early on that an enhanced project management capability would be required to assist the national project coordinator to manage the programme, coordinate progress reports and follow up on the implementation of corrective action where necessary.</p>
3	I put to the DG and Department that NARYSEC was badly conceptualised from the beginning: what is their view?	The Department is of the view that the programme was well conceptualised in 2010, with good intentions, clear strategic objectives and outcomes. It was conceptualised and implemented to demonstrate the Department's commitment in contributing

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		<p>towards employment creation for the marginalised youth residing in rural areas. The Department also sought to eradicate poverty in rural households.</p> <p>Although a clear policy framework was developed, it emerged that the programme lacked documented and efficient systems and procedures as well as a robust and well-defined monitoring and evaluation mechanism. As a result of these shortcomings, the Department is reviewing the NARYSEC policy.</p>
4	<p>The department failed to manage NARYSEC successfully and thus failed to establish mechanisms and control systems to mitigate against possible risks. What is their view on this?</p>	<p>The Department is of the view that the NARYSEC Programme is not a failure, but during implementation has documented its shortcomings.</p> <p>As stated above, the Department recognised that its mechanisms and control systems were inadequate at the inception of the programme, and these were corrected in the 2015 policy revision. Better controls were put in place to reduce transport and accommodation expenditure. For example, a top-up stipend was introduced and implemented to help the youth fund transport and accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tranche payments to TVET Colleges were introduced to ensure accountability as well as to manage and control expenditure. - The Course Specific Contracts were not going through the normal Supply Chain Processes, but directly with Colleges under DHET. - Course Specific Contracts (CSC) which would stipulate payments to be done in tranches, e.g. attendance registers for 3 months. Institutions that have not issued certificates were not paid the last tranche until certificates were issued to learners. - CSC are only signed where there is a Memorandum of Understanding with TVET colleges. - Monitoring tools put in place: if participants' attendance and conduct is unsatisfactory, they are suspended from the programme; payment of the

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		<p>stipend may be stopped altogether or they may be expelled from the programme.</p> <p>Repurposing the NARYSEC Programme will put a strong emphasis on systems to track and trace youth while in the programme and upon them exiting the programme. In addition to this, a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting System will be developed and implemented.</p>																																																																																																																																				
5	<p>The department has failed to reduce levels of illiteracy and lack of skills amongst youth in the country, if it reduced lack of skills and improved literacy amongst youth, what evidence is there to refute my claim?</p>	<p>A total of 12 807 youth has been certified through the NARYSEC programme from 2010 to date. The table below provides a summary of the youth who have been certified per economic sector for each of the nine provinces.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="814 704 1976 1230"> <thead> <tr> <th>INDUSTRY</th> <th>EC</th> <th>FS</th> <th>GP</th> <th>KZN</th> <th>LP</th> <th>MP</th> <th>NW</th> <th>NC</th> <th>WC</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries</td> <td>507</td> <td>75</td> <td>98</td> <td>566</td> <td>389</td> <td>110</td> <td>438</td> <td>167</td> <td>273</td> <td>2623</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finance, Real Estate & Business Services</td> <td>80</td> <td>82</td> <td>172</td> <td>145</td> <td>422</td> <td>97</td> <td>37</td> <td>109</td> <td>418</td> <td>1562</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Construction & Engineering</td> <td>753</td> <td>227</td> <td>558</td> <td>379</td> <td>1109</td> <td>485</td> <td>406</td> <td>383</td> <td>452</td> <td>4752</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Energy & Water</td> <td>367</td> <td>78</td> <td>0</td> <td>28</td> <td>64</td> <td>62</td> <td>31</td> <td>43</td> <td>61</td> <td>734</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Education & Training</td> <td>115</td> <td>79</td> <td>34</td> <td>131</td> <td>4</td> <td>34</td> <td>65</td> <td>184</td> <td>107</td> <td>753</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health, Safety & Security</td> <td>182</td> <td>26</td> <td>8</td> <td>150</td> <td>26</td> <td>50</td> <td>14</td> <td>22</td> <td>16</td> <td>494</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hospitality, Tourism & Manufacturing</td> <td>129</td> <td>44</td> <td>24</td> <td>36</td> <td>110</td> <td>109</td> <td>74</td> <td>91</td> <td>56</td> <td>673</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Information Technology & Media</td> <td>90</td> <td>66</td> <td>192</td> <td>57</td> <td>105</td> <td>40</td> <td>205</td> <td>167</td> <td>40</td> <td>962</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mining & Quarrying</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport, Storage & Communication</td> <td>25</td> <td>13</td> <td>83</td> <td>112</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>21</td> <td>0</td> <td>254</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>2248</td> <td>690</td> <td>1169</td> <td>1604</td> <td>2229</td> <td>987</td> <td>1270</td> <td>1187</td> <td>1423</td> <td>12807</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	INDUSTRY	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NW	NC	WC	TOTAL	Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	507	75	98	566	389	110	438	167	273	2623	Finance, Real Estate & Business Services	80	82	172	145	422	97	37	109	418	1562	Construction & Engineering	753	227	558	379	1109	485	406	383	452	4752	Energy & Water	367	78	0	28	64	62	31	43	61	734	Education & Training	115	79	34	131	4	34	65	184	107	753	Health, Safety & Security	182	26	8	150	26	50	14	22	16	494	Hospitality, Tourism & Manufacturing	129	44	24	36	110	109	74	91	56	673	Information Technology & Media	90	66	192	57	105	40	205	167	40	962	Mining & Quarrying	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Transport, Storage & Communication	25	13	83	112	0	0	0	21	0	254	TOTAL	2248	690	1169	1604	2229	987	1270	1187	1423	12807
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6	<p>The department has failed to reduce unemployment amongst the youth and prepare beneficiaries for the future, if it did, what evidence is there to refute my claim?</p>	<p>A total of 3 802 youth is currently in training or enrolled in various skills development programmes. The table below provides a summary of the youth who are currently in training for each of the nine provinces:</p>																																																																																																																																				

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The absorption of NARYSEC youth in employment opportunities within the Department is however, not extensive enough to make a notable impact. This is identified to be an area of improvement.</p> <p data-bbox="814 1149 1999 1295">A concerted effort is being made by the Department to establish partnerships in the private sector (e.g. Woolworths, VW South Africa, Hisense, Clicks, Lulaway, etc.) to facilitate further employment opportunities for NARYSEC youth who successfully complete their skills development.</p> <p data-bbox="814 1334 1999 1476">Furthermore, youth who want to seek employment are provided with skills in this regard, which include relevant career guidance (e.g. CV writing, job search skills, interview skills etc.) and interventions during the Induction, Orientation and Life Skills phase of the programme.</p>	TOTAL NARYSEC YOUTH CURRENTLY BUSY WITH TRAINING = 3 802											STATUS	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NW	NC	WC	TOTAL	Awaiting Certification	144	272	68	814	272	228	41	0	142	1981	Busy With Structured Institutional and Workplace Training	0	0	32	0	0	0	230	0	0	262	Busy With Structured Institutional Training	78	141	0	141	0	0	99	73	224	756	Busy With Structured Workplace Training	92	98	74	99	0	190	128	82	25	788	Busy With Work Integrated Learning	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	11	0	15	TOTAL	314	511	174	1058	272	418	498	166	391	3802
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7	<p>The department has embarked on a wasteful program without due diligence on what the objectives of NARYSEC were set out to achieve, if it refutes this claim, what is its defence?</p>	<p>The Department disagrees that the programme is wasteful. The NARYSEC Programme has been able to improve its overall functioning since the implementation of the revised policy in 2015. A marked improvement since the adoption of the revised policy was the streamlining and refining of the skills development phase of the programme. The improved skills development implementation resulted in larger numbers of youth completing their training successfully and resulting in certification. To date, 12 807 youth have been certified, with an additional 3 207 who have completed their training and are awaiting certification.</p> <p>Challenges with certification include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delays in training providers arranging external Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) verification visits. - Delays in the uploading of learner results onto the SETA Information Management Systems. - The above delays directly impact the issuing of SETA certificates. - Erratic follow-up from training providers with SETAs pertaining to certification. The success with obtaining certificates is often as a result of departmental officials following up with SETAs directly. <p>The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) has audited the programme and reports were tabled in Parliament.</p> <p>The programme has made an impact to participants, for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The stipend received whilst on the programme contributed towards improving the livelihoods of the youth and their families. Household income increased for the youth during and after the NARYSEC Programme due to some of the youth being employed and having started their own business. - Opportunities were provided for youth to acquire a skill they did not have before joining the Programme – large numbers of youth have been certified through the Programme.

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		- A culture of community service has been inculcated in the youth																																
8	How much was spent by the department on the NARYSEC for its entire duration?	<p>Total expenditure over the years amounted to R4 618 414 530 (R4.6 billion)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>FINANCIAL YEAR</th> <th>AUDITED EXPENDITURE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010/2011</td> <td>R131 699 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011/2012</td> <td>R 288 549 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012/2013</td> <td>R 535 766 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013/2014</td> <td>R 814 048 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014/2015</td> <td>R 652 913 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/2016</td> <td>R 377 298 224</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/2017</td> <td>R 476 309 862</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/2018</td> <td>R 487 485 810</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/2019</td> <td>R 446 976 279</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/2020</td> <td>R 386 399 711</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>R4 618 414 530</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	FINANCIAL YEAR	AUDITED EXPENDITURE	2010/2011	R131 699 000	2011/2012	R 288 549 000	2012/2013	R 535 766 000	2013/2014	R 814 048 000	2014/2015	R 652 913 000	2015/2016	R 377 298 224	2016/2017	R 476 309 862	2017/2018	R 487 485 810	2018/2019	R 446 976 279	2019/2020	R 386 399 711	Total	R4 618 414 530								
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9	How many young people benefited from entrepreneurial opportunities and enterprise development (quantify this and provide figures and money expended)? And the number of drop-outs	<p>Out of a total of 25 244 youth participating in the programme since 2010, 391 have established their own businesses, 1 028 have been employed and 5 349 dropped out of the programme for various reasons.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PROVINCE</th> <th>YOUTH BUSINESS IN</th> <th>YOUTH EMPLOYED</th> <th>DROP-OUTS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Eastern Cape</td> <td>20</td> <td>41</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Free State</td> <td>45</td> <td>89</td> <td>312</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gauteng</td> <td>60</td> <td>117</td> <td>558</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KwaZulu Natal</td> <td>23</td> <td>107</td> <td>252</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limpopo</td> <td>77</td> <td>109</td> <td>614</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mpumalanga</td> <td>43</td> <td>148</td> <td>559</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North West</td> <td>14</td> <td>68</td> <td>200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PROVINCE	YOUTH BUSINESS IN	YOUTH EMPLOYED	DROP-OUTS	Eastern Cape	20	41	400	Free State	45	89	312	Gauteng	60	117	558	KwaZulu Natal	23	107	252	Limpopo	77	109	614	Mpumalanga	43	148	559	North West	14	68	200
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No	Issue raised	Response			
		Northern Cape	65	42	1410
		Western Cape	44	307	1044
		Totals	391	1028	5349
10	What does “repurposing” of NARYSEC mean it that is not a subtle way of admitting that it was indeed badly conceptualised?	<p>Repurposing the programme means reviewing the programme in its entirety and ensuring that shortcomings identified through evaluation and research studies are corrected. It is by no means a reflection of a “badly designed programme”, but rather an evolving programme aimed at decreasing unemployment and alleviating poverty among the rural youth.</p> <p>The programme will partner and set aside start-up capital supported by the Department of Small Business Development and other key partners affording the youth the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Employment opportunities as identified in District and Local Municipalities. (ii) Provide start up business support and incubation for youth who want to venture into starting their own enterprises. (iii) The training this time around will have a stronger emphasis on the Department’s programmes, i.e. agriculture, agro-processing, land reform, etc. the intention is to also place youth in departmental initiatives. <p>The subsequent implementation of the NARYSEC Programme might have not been desirable over time hence it needed to be repurposed so that it lives up to its original objectives. The new proposed policy direction aims to address the fact that the current policy does not provide a mechanism for the programme to assist youth with a meaningful exit route into employment, self-employment or further studies. Once the new policy has been adopted, the Department is confident that the programme will make a more meaningful contribution towards alleviating unemployment amongst rural young people by assisting their transitioning into economic activity.</p> <p>Once approved, the new policy will have the following benefits:</p>			

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No	Issue raised	Response
		<p>(i) Recruiting for a purpose means that the programme will recruit the youth having already negotiated employment opportunities with stakeholders. This will address challenge of youth unemployment.</p> <p>(ii) The Programme will be able to assist youth with resources to initiate or expand their businesses.</p> <p>(iii) The Programme will form partnerships with private and public organisations to assist youth to develop entrepreneurship skills and work readiness programmes.</p> <p>(iv) The Programme will not only focus on skills development training (learnerships) but also on short course and skills required by the labour market.</p> <p>(v) The Programme will be able to give work readiness training to youth with Diplomas and Degrees.</p> <p>(iv) The programme will now be directly linked to the work of the department through the Comprehensive Land & Agrarian Strategy (CLAS) and the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP).</p>
11	Why is the NARYSEC budget being reduced?	The budget was reduced in the 2020/21 financial year because the department did not have intentions to recruit youth in the first quarter. The objective was to first repurpose the programme and employ a more targeted recruitment approach. The intention was to also link youth previously participating in the programme to jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities and this initiative would not require a huge budget.
12	Is it true that NARYSEC programme did not recruit in KZN and FS provinces in 2010?	KZN: When the NARYSEC Programme was launched, various stakeholders were briefed about the aim of the programme. One of the stakeholders was the Office of the Premier (OTP). The OTP reported that the province was also initiating a similar programme called the Youth Ambassador Programme (YAP). The OTP was of the opinion that the NARYSEC programmes will be duplicating the YAP in the province

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No	Issue raised	Response												
		<p>and causing confusion to the youth. After several months of discussions and political intervention, the programme recruited youth in 2011 in municipalities where the Department was implementing projects. The programme was fully implemented in 2012.</p> <p>Free State: Implementation of the NARYSEC Programme in the Free State Province did not take place as planned in 2010. This was because the Province, through the Office of the Premier preferred that the NARYSEC Programme be handed over to the Province including budget allocated for the NARYSEC Programme. This caused delays as it was not possible for the allocated budget to be transferred to another department. The Political leadership intervened to unlock the hurdles and to reach an agreement that the Office of the Premier and the National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform will work together on the programme for recruitment and skilling of youth. The Programme was fully implemented in 2011.</p>												
13	Draft policy on NARYSEC	The draft NARYSEC Programme policy will be tabled to the Portfolio Committee after it has been presented to the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development.												
14	Schedule of NARYSEC activities from inception to date	<p>Below are activities of the current programme, i.e. from inception to date.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="814 1068 1917 1477"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="814 1068 1352 1138">PHASES</th> <th data-bbox="1352 1068 1917 1138">DURATION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="814 1138 1352 1214">1. Recruitment</td> <td data-bbox="1352 1138 1917 1214">Two months prior to enrollment into Programme</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="814 1214 1352 1256">2. Induction, Orientation and Life Skills</td> <td data-bbox="1352 1214 1917 1256">Three weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="814 1256 1352 1333">3. Youth Leadership Development Programme (YLDP)</td> <td data-bbox="1352 1256 1917 1333">Twelve weeks (3 months)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="814 1333 1352 1391">4. Community Service Part 1</td> <td data-bbox="1352 1333 1917 1391">Two months</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="814 1391 1352 1477">5. Skills Development</td> <td data-bbox="1352 1391 1917 1477">Twelve months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PHASES	DURATION	1. Recruitment	Two months prior to enrollment into Programme	2. Induction, Orientation and Life Skills	Three weeks	3. Youth Leadership Development Programme (YLDP)	Twelve weeks (3 months)	4. Community Service Part 1	Two months	5. Skills Development	Twelve months
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15	List of recruited youth (intake) for 2019/20	See Annexure A (Excel Spreadsheet): 2019-2020 Recruitment List																		
16	Can the department share the monitoring & evaluation framework for the programme	The Monitoring and Evaluation framework is still a draft. It will be shared with the Committee once approved, along with the Policy.																		

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No	Issue raised	Response
17	What criteria used to recruit from the three districts with the exclusion of other districts and other provinces?	This was based on the announcement of President Ramaphosa when he launched the District Development Model (DDM) as a way for government to improve service delivery. Three districts were identified, namely, OR Tambo, Waterberg and eThekweni.
18	List of stakeholders in partnership with the department on NARYSEC programme	See Annexure B: Provincial Partnerships for the Implementation of the NARYSEC Programme
19	Is the department working closely with the National Youth Development Agency? What is their involvement?	The NARYSEC Programme works closely with NYDA. We are currently in the process of signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in the following areas of collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) National Youth Service (b) Identification of Community Service areas (c) Assisting with M&E of youth in different phases of the programme, (d) On-The- Job Readiness (e) Training on Enterprise Development (f) Providing enterprise development support for youth with or interested in becoming entrepreneurs (g) Linking youth with employers for exit opportunities
20	Is the programme considering recruiting Coloureds, Indians, poor Whites?	The programme is not designed to be discriminatory against any race, tribe, gender, disability, etc. The Department follows a transparent recruitment and placement process where an advert is published in all local municipalities. All youth from rural areas may apply.