

Bellville South Unemployment Forum

Establish 09 March 2006

Public Hearings on Youth Unemployment

07 June 2006

National Parliament, Cape Town

Presented by: Jacques Rhodes

Management Committee:

Mr J. Rhodes - Chairperson
Ms L. Sass - Vice Chairperson
Ms L. Prins - Secretary
Mr H. Fortuin - Assistant Secretary
Mr M. Matroos - Treasures
Ms K. Pietersen - Assistant Treasurer.

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Bellville South Unemployment Forum :

Our Mandate

Ensure development and intergration of all people into all spheres of life in Society

Our Vision

A Society accessible to all it's people, irrespective of disability / race / religion

Our Mission

To be effective and efficient for all persons which mobilizes us to advocate our rightsfor the attainment of equal opportunity in an integrated social, political and economic environment.

Our Slogan

Justice in our society, so that our people can live in freedom and security.

Introduction.

The dawn of the new democratic South Africa in 1994, brought joy and hope to many citizens. Today there are many unanswered questions with regard to young people's feeling about the new democracy, especially in relation to unemployment. The unemployment statistics in our country are shocking. This we view as critical as our submission to the Public Hearing on youth unemployment, on this important subject that is due to us.

All come with beautiful submissions, but what has been done to address the high plaque of unemployment. The honourable Committee of Labour, National Assembly as you heard over the past two days (30-05-2006 & 02-06-2006) no presentation came from a community based organization/forum and they never mentioned which communities they represent. It is sad that so much funding is available for our unemployed in our communities, Committee do you know why.

COMEBACK1 will explain in the house. Over the past two days the presenters said what they can do in five years, but how will they achieve it, if they have done nothing up to now. Committee the answer to the problem of unemployment is our presentation from Bellville South Unemployment Forum.

Solution to our unemployment problem.

Committee, what we have done is easy and simple, but it sounds complicated, because we did in Bellville South. COMEBACK2. What we need now is funding to launch our unemployment project (first in South Africa), so that our people can eat and live. COMEBACK3. This is just an example of what can be achieved if you have the passion and love for your community. Over the past two days, I have heard how serious the committee members feel about the problem of unemployment in our country. Now, can this initiative become a reality? No,

Because we as unemployment committee and the unemployed have nothing. Yes, if the committee of Labour National Assembly today (07-06-2006) in this house that they are prepared to help BSUF with their project and show the committee's seriousness about unemployment and what can be achieved irrespective of race/religion or disabled people – to be an eye-opener for all communities. We are asking the Committee to put there money where the mouth is. Honourable Madam Chair, we as the BSUF are appealing to the Portfolio Committee members with tears in our eyes to assist our people because of our suffering through unemployment.

Conclusion.

This proposal is submitted that it can be utilised to improve the lives and alleviate the poverty of millions of people who want to work but cannot for reasons they do not understand and that are beyond their control. Young people with jobs, are young people with hope and future, self-respect and independence. Youth unemployment is a threat to the stability of the country. Lack of opportunity or support is driving young people to criminal activities. A multi-sectoral approach is needed to deal with challenge of youth unemployment, underpinned by drive and passion. We believe partnerships with government and business is vital. COMEBACK4.

Note: All presentations so far has highlighted the statistics, but no one has moved a finger.