

Press release 31 May 2012: MSSA Youth Unemployment Study: What they feel and think.

This Youth Unemployment pilot study gathered information from the unemployed in the Metropolitan Areas of South Africa end 2011 beginning 2012. The study had two phases namely:

1. In-depth interviews to uncover the challenges that they face as well as to refine the questionnaire for the qualitative part of the study; and
2. Personal structured interviews with 154 unemployed youth in the age categories 21-25 and 26 to 29. The profile of the South African community is covered with this pilot study.

Some of the findings were:

- One out of three unemployed youth had children to look after;
- The average number of unsuccessful interviews was 4.3. Those that had some form of Accountancy or Maths on average had fewer unsuccessful interviews;
- The unemployed youth in the sample felt that lack of experience, qualifications and financial support, are the main challenges they have to deal with;
- Perceptions about “a decent job” link with the concept of a secure work;
- One out of four do not know how to find work;
- 97% said that they welcome temporary or part time work to gain experience;
- Only one out of five said that they have refused a job because the salary is too low;
- The feelings towards government are mostly negative (“just talk and do nothing, corruption and labour laws restrict job creation”);
- Unemployed youth positive about learnerships;

- Labour unions should also be involved with training, “however they only look after themselves”;
- Organised business should do more to create jobs through apprenticeship opportunities;
- A low 40% have heard about the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA);
- Schools (teachers and parents) should focus on guiding learners about the relative demand of work in sectors of the economy; and
- There is a desire by most respondents to improve themselves through programmes to develop their skills.

The study segmented the unemployed youth, in order to communicate and focus actions and programmes in a more effective and efficient way.

Finally the research report integrates the findings with practical suggested solutions through self employment (entrepreneurship) and youth unemployment subsidies.

The report is available at no cost from MSSA. Please contact Schalk Van Vuuren at 0832529176 or 012 346 0718 or e-mail for electronic PDF copy to mssa2@mssa-research.co.za



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