Young people: the future is here & you know it!

Yogan Pillay

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Challenges Young South Africans say they face Today?

- **Sandiso Zungu, 21, student, Newcastle**
  The struggle young people face these days is being lost; most of us don't know where we come from and we don't know where we are going. We have no direction. We defy guidance from our elders, we want to take our own way which is fine but we need the pearls of wisdom along the way.

Kwazi Dlamini, Daily Vox, 9 June 2017

- **Bheki Kunene, 27, Montclair**
For me it would be crime and drug abuse. It has terrorised our youth which makes them terrorise innocent people by stealing from them. It's a broad issue – they do drugs because most of them are unemployed, so it is a tricky one. Elders also do not understand that staying at home every day while watching other people going to work can drive you to suicide; by suicide I mean drugs and crime [which can kill you]. Some of us don't get jobs because we decided that standard three was good enough for us, which is another issue altogether.

Kwazi Dlamini, Daily Vox, 9 June 2017

Cold facts (STATSSA, 2015)

- Of 5 million unemployed South Africans, 3.4 m were - young people aged 15–34 years

- Youth unemployment rate in rural areas was almost two percentage higher than youth in urban areas

- Youth with less than matric were most likely to be unemployed

- 2 million employed persons were classified as entrepreneurs, 543 000 were youth between the ages of 15–34 years. Entrepreneurs are defined as employers or the self-employed.

Health Issues

- The most prevalent cause of death of females was infectious and parasitic diseases – 43,8% in 2008 and 44,8% in 2013. This reason was given for 30,7% of males in 2008 and 27,4% in 2013.

- High levels of teen pregnancies – around 70 000 18 yr olds and younger delivered babies in 2014/15

What gives us hope for the future?

- Simple answer is:
  - young people
  - your idealism
  - your energy
  - your potential
- Let us show all South Africans that young people can lead