



Community Action Teams (CATS)

This brochure seeks to empower the youth network through a multiplier strategy to mobilise more youth through Youth Community Action Teams (CATS) for educational and responsive collaboration for youth participation and contribution in monitoring implementation of economic and social rights in communities to claim and assert those rights.



IVORY PARK COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAMS ADVOCATING FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES ACCESS TO JUSTICE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

This Project provides understanding of Economic and Social Rights and Capacity Building to Youth Citizenry Action. The project provides the youth networks with sufficient information on socio-economic rights, on how to participate in citizenry action towards influencing decision-making processes that can improve delivery of services by local government structures all aimed at realizing socio-economic rights.



Ivory Park is a highly populated residential area and most people aren't aware of their right to human dignity and privacy. Most people lack knowledge about their right to information as set in the Constitution. There's a need for more workshop to spread protected human rights and promotion of South Africa's history of human rights.

The right to work, where the reality of unemployed graduates in the community is staggering. This means the right to work is not really practiced because of nepotism, racism, inequality and lack of information. Discrimination such as based on gender and race still persist, which leads to weak societies. Lack of infrastructure and shelters in the community leads to constant protests and violence. Failure to comply with formal strike/protest processes leads them to informal strike. This ends up to damaged infrastructure and institutions around the area

Tertiary Education, equal standard of education, skills and learning should be free. An effective functioning law enforcement on crime is desperately needed, It should be a culture of human rights and promotion of the rule of law that holds the perpetrators of human rights such as corrupt officials, false information 'schemers' to justice.

Regarding access to property ownership and title deeds, the issue of communities that possess title deeds under names of deceased family members, should be addressed, as this leads to unnecessary civil matters. Health is a human rights and should be accessible and free. Basic skills and workshops should be conducted in communities for more awareness on access to health and social security.

Environmental, cultural and developmental rights faced in the communities is appalling. There is less attention in water (water runs out) and sanitation, sewage leakage & rubbish pickups ignored, and the utilities such as electricity load shedding are constant challenges.

Cultural practices that are inhumane and degrading are unconstitutional and the state should ensure the prevalence of a culture of respect of human rights. Where cultural practices that advance positive cultural values these should be commended and be discouraged where development is hindered as a result of practices.

TSHEPISONG

Lack information, especially public participation activities in the township.



Communities are excluded in participation of public meetings if they are not informed

This is not in line with the Constitution, because as a result their issues remain unattended by the municipality. Another issue that they raised was lack of facilities in the township, which leads to youth resorting to substance abuse. They also complained about unequal treatment of residents in the area, as Tshepiso consist of formal Reconstruction and Development Programme houses and informal settlement. Those who come from the informal settlement receive discrimination and not integrated in the community. The need for infrastructure development, including internet facilities to be able to apply for jobs, and also a need of WIFI access. Youth were empowered by Speakers from the Council Committee on Youth and Sports on how local government operates. This enabled the youth to grasp an understanding of steps to take when raising their grievances with the authorities.

Boiketlong

- Although communities have understanding know about the constitution , there was a feeling of despondency deception by the ruling party, which is known to be the party of the people
- The aspiration of the Constitution has not achieved much for the people and Boiketlong community see it as an instrument for controlling people. It was also referred to as a Capitalist document meant to oppress the poor and protects, politicians, other races while discriminating others
- They say the rights are good as paper rights but they are not applicable (good but cannot be achieved)
- The only rights they know about is the right to assemble, freedom of speech and equality
- Nothing much is been done to assist the Boiketlong 4 case to be dismissed and to assist in the case of investigating the disappearance of the activist Papi Tobias who was involved in organising protests in the area against service delivery protests.
- Human Rights Organisations such as HURISA Foundation for Human Rights should do more to defend the defendless as one participants needed to be assisted with recourse after being shot during a massacre shooting in Sebokeng Zone 7 during apartheid era in 1993.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:-

- They concluded by deepening understanding

of the human rights as inherent rights and not privileges given by the government or any political party. Revival of activists for making human rights real and to play vital roles in developing communities

- Development of a plan of action to test and use the Constitution in holding the local municipality accountable for the lack of basic services. The report of the bankruptcy of the municipality and water bill owed by the municipality to Rand Water was a serious concern as this was a course for constant water outages in the area. The repossession of municipal vehicle leased from a private sector, demonstrated the lack of leadership and embedded corruption in the area with impunity
- To test the PAIA application in getting information on why the Emfuleni municipality has failed to pay Randwater and Eskom which has led to water and electricity cut offs To use the Constitution to make sure that the Boiketlong Christian School is upgraded to a decent school
- Took a pledge to read and use the constitution daily from now on
- Vowed to assist in putting pressure on the case of the missing activist
- To have a day dedicated to solidarity with Boiketlong Community regarding the unfair sentencing of the Boiketlong 4



ZANDSPRUIT MEN'S FORUM HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOUE:

CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED:

6. Governance
 - Regular Stakeholder Forum meeting
 - Database of all Stakeholders in the community
 - Integration of community structures into One Community Forum
 - Depoliticize community development initiatives
 - Information sharing
 - Leadership handicaps
 - Quarterly Awareness campaigns
7. Policing
 - Extent of community involvement
 - Resources necessary to police the area
 - Swift Response to crime scene
 - Regular Awareness campaign to restore the trust and credibility of the community
 - Conditions/ Procedures to remove criminal record
 - Violent crime such as mob justice / necklacing of fellow community members
 - Drugs and substance abuse
 - LDAC / Coalition to be resuscitated

- Land invasion & Eviction
1. Access to Social Justice
 - Family laws – Rights & Responsibilities of Men
 - Gender based violence
 - Child safety
 - and tribalism
 2. Health
 - Capacitate clinic to deal the growing demand
 - Regular health screening
 - Advocacy Initiatives
 3. Access to social services
 - Accessibility of social workers 5 days a week
 - Child negligence / abandonment DUE to poor parenting
 - Birth & late birth registration
 4. Social Cohesion
 - Africa 2063 Agenda and Xenophobia, Tribalism and related challenges
 5. Education
 - No. of children not in classrooms during school hours throughout the year
 - Regular school attendance

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Establish a service delivery strategic intervention task team with sole mandate to facilitate planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Integration, participation / meaningful involvement of the community into their own affairs, and sustainable community

development programs / projects

- To facilitate on – going discussions amongst various role players and various stakeholders within the community to find common grounds in the establishment of One Community Development Forum

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FORUM:

- Working with all stakeholders to further identify critical challenges and strategic interventions
- Public Education & mobilization on Family Law
- Public Education & mobilization on Late birth registration
- Public Education & mobilization Gender based Violence
- Public Education & mobilization on Child Safety “Child Protection”
- Public Education & mobilization on Drugs and Substance abuse towards resuscitation of Local Drug Action Committee
- Public Education & mobilization on “Africa 2063 Agenda to counter Xenophobia and tribalism

CONCLUSION:

Midrand Solidarity Economy Educators & Communication Cooperatives (MSECC), Men’s Forum will forge relations with

organisations such as HURISA, to increase awareness about respect of human rights in the community of Ivory Park as well as mobilisation of resources for sustainability of community based organisation in the area.



DIRCO

1. Purpose/Objectives

A dialogue on youth month with young employees at DIRCO who met to discuss the possibility of establishing a young diplomatic forum exploring its structure, focus and mandate. International opportunities for young diplomats, equipping them with the necessary policy knowledge and negotiation skills, partnership and collaboration with young diplomats in other countries were some of the issues discussed.

2. Attendance and Speakers

Young employees at DIRCO and related structures were in attendance. Also in attendance were the Acting COO Ms. Charlotte Lobe, Acting Director Gender and Diversity Management Ms. Bassey Phepheng, Director of Diplomatic Training and International School Mr. Machieol Van Niekerk and former diplomats. Some of the speakers were from SALO, Sochi Young Diplomatic Network and HURISA.

3. Key Issues

2.1 Gaps It was discussed that some aspects of theoretical content and field work of diplomatic training needs to be

reviewed or adjusted, that existing international and inter-DIRCO platforms created for young employees are not fully optimized and thus South Africa viewed to be lacking in international activism.



2.2 Challenges

Ageism: the absence of deputy directors under the age of 25, of directors under the age of 30 and chief director under the age of 40. It was stressed that young diplomats are lacking in negotiation skills compared to their Asian and European colleagues, they have been reduced to printing, photocopying and tea making and as a result they are not effective neither fully utilised in their line functions.

2.3 Opportunities

The need to train, promote or mentor young employees to initiate documents at zero draft; such as speaking notes and speeches of senior political officials, strategy plans etc. The need to mobilise *the voice of young people in diplomacy* to host weekly or biweekly debates, symposiums and reading clubs on topical issues such as migration and the abuse of human rights in other countries and in South Africa; to discuss challenges affecting diplomats, produce analytical opinion pieces, articles, magazine and memoirs.

