

WORKGROUP UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY

NOTES - 6 MAY 2025



ATTENDANCE REGISTER:

Title	First Name	Surname	Attendance	Remarks
Ps	Reuben	Africa	Present	Gelvandale NC Work4Living, employment > train soft skills, discipleship
Mr	Theo	Batik	Present	Entrepreneur Sea economy, turn sea weed - biostimulants, agriculture products
Ps	Victor	Befile	Present	Motherwell Minister's Fraternal - Econ Dev Forum
Mr	Theo	Bezuidenhout	Apology	
	Lionel	Billings	-	
Ds	Robert-John	De Kock	Apology	
Mr	Unathi	Fihla	Present	NMU - Missionvale Care Centre
Me	Nomazizi	Galela	Present	Missionvale Care Centre Facilitator Mentor
Aps	Neville	Goldmann	Present	Civic Society Vice C / Church leadership

Me	Sue	Hagemann	Present	Youth Employment Harambee
Mr	Trevor	Jennings	Present	TCN Support Centre Church Leadership
Bsp	William	Leleki	Present	Bishop Meth Church Makhanda / Leadership focus on mission of the church; support people, less grants and human dignity through work
Mas	Anga	Mbeyiya	Present	Entrepreneur - turn seaweed - fertilizer
Ps	Zola	Moses	Present	Motherwell Minister's Fraternal - Religious Desk of the Speaker
Ds	Danie	Mouton	Present	Executive director DRC Eastern Cape
Mr	Lucky	Ngamlana	Present	Missionvale Care Centre - Comm dev
Ms	Linda	Ngqunge	-	
Ms	Lubabalo	Njongwe	-	
Mr	Marius	Olivier	Apology	
Mr	Dirk	Van der Mescht	Apology	
Mr	Pierre	Van Wyk	Present	Kariega - social worker; community initiatives TCN
Ps	Glenn	Weiss	Present	Pastor Joy to the nations - HR - Farming God way, Job creation
Dr	Willem	Wiid	Present	Retired DRC Pastor, Sydenham DRC
Mr	Siya	Mbola	Present	Professional Accountant
Mr	Tukela	Zumani	Present	Economist, politician, entrepreneurship, treasury, Mayibuye Youth Initiative

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Participants are welcomed and get the opportunity to introduce themselves.

WORKSHEET: UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY

Gqeberha Citywide Dialogue commitment to "Ministry collaboration, implementation and delivery".

The 5 Ws and 1 H:

1. **Who:** Identifies the individuals or groups involved, responsible, or affected by the issue.

(Who is our Target Market)

Participants describe the target market as follows:

The whole community, but especially the poor, unemployed and destitute.

Residents of the townships.

The unemployed youth between 18-35

Unemployed in general, destitute people

Most disadvantaged members of the community

The youth between 18-35, especially young men

Unemployed youth of NMB, especially those that are actively looking for employment

The whole community of NMB - we all benefit by the employment of more and more people

Leaders in the community and leaders of faith based organisations: these are the people who can champion solutions for unemployment and poverty

The whole community of Gqeberha, specifically the unemployed and the poor

Those unemployed and struggling with poverty

Hopeless people in our metro

Impoverished communities of Gqeberha

The qualified youth who find it impossible to find employment

Unemployed at home here in our metro, but also further in the rest of the country and on our continent

Marginalised in the community

The Unemployed youth

SUMMARY: WHO IS OUR TARGET MARKET?

Here is a summary of the central themes from the group's input:

1. **Unemployed youth**, particularly those aged 18–35, are a major focus.
2. Special attention is given to **the poor, destitute, and disadvantaged**.
3. **Township residents** and **impoverished communities** are identified as key target groups.
4. There's concern for **marginalised and hopeless people**.
5. The belief is expressed that **employment benefits the entire community**, not just the individual.
6. **Community and faith-based leaders** are seen as important agents for change.
7. The group highlights **qualified youth who remain unemployed**.

8. Although focused on Gqeberha/NMB, the concern extends to the **broader country and continent**.
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2. **What:** Describes the event, situation, or problem in detail.
(What problem are we trying to solve)

Participants describe the problem to be solved as follows:

An overregulated policy environment that prevents access to the economy
Unemployment and poverty should be viewed as a systemic issue, with lots of contributing factors and effects
Decreased unemployment and increased availability of jobs
Both the group without any income, and the with an income who can make a difference in the lives of the poor, but both groups do not know that they can or how to do it.
Self-inefficiency, due to lack of insight in the why's of poverty and unemployment
People are often under-educated, under-skilled and in-experienced
We need to think holistically - contributing factors such as lack of education, lack of capital, lack of opportunity, the inability of the household need to be addressed
Address a dysfunctional society, with its inequality and poverty
Severe inequality in metro, limited job opportunities, large group of unemployed with many not employable
Underdeveloped small business sector
Educational system do not create a competent society
Unemployment too high
Create economic participation, awake people to the possibilities they have to generate an income
Reduce the rate of unemployment
Stabilise the economy by creating jobs
Address crime since crime limits job creation and employment
Poor leadership from politicians
Unemployment as a causes of high crime rate
Bring people to the main economic stream
Inequality
Change materialism and over consumption of youth - reduce consumerism, reduce crime as an effort to gain access to material goods

SUMMARY: WHAT PROBLEM ARE WE TRYING TO SOLVE?

Here is a summary of the central themes from the group's response to the question "What are we trying to change":

1. **High unemployment** and limited job opportunities.
 2. **Systemic poverty** tied to multiple factors such as education, capital, opportunity, and leadership.
 3. **Severe inequality** in society and the economy.
 4. **Underdeveloped small business sector** and lack of economic participation.
 5. **Inadequate education and skills training**, leaving people unemployable.
 6. **Crime and poor leadership**, which inhibit job creation and economic growth.
 7. A **culture of materialism and consumerism**, especially among the youth.
 8. A **dysfunctional, disconnected society** with both poor and capable individuals unsure how to act.
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3. **When:** Specifies the timing or duration of the event or problem.
(When will it be addressed?)

Participants describes the timeframe for an intervention or solution as follows:

Develop solutions with a view to three time frames: Immediate - medium - long term.

For the immediate period we can support existing initiatives; in the medium term we can develop our own contribution; and for the long term we can influence economic policy reforms

Think short term, medium term, long term

The process of alleviating unemployment and poverty is ongoing, must be decentralised, and executed in a coordinated manner

As soon as possible

When we collaborate

Make a firm begin, then we continue faithfully, until our support and initiatives become a culture of action in the community

Our effort must be ongoing, sustainable, just

In phases, the sooner the better

Once we believe in ourselves, we will be ready for an intervention

As and when systematic change occurs in society

When people learn that not only visible issues need to be addressed, but also less visible once, such as maintenance and regular cleaning of the environment

Problems will end when a systemic solution is adopted, e.g. Coca Cola needs to make biodegradable packaging which will have a knock on effect

SUMMARY: WHEN WILL IT BE ADDRESSED?

Here is a summary of the central themes from the group's input on the question "*When will the problem be addressed?*".

1. **Phased and time-conscious approach:** Solutions must be developed and implemented across three timeframes—**immediate**, **medium-term**, and **long-term**.
 2. **Urgency and early action:** There is a strong desire to **start as soon as possible**, with statements like *"as soon as possible"*, *"the sooner the better"*, and *"make a firm begin"*.
 3. **Ongoing and sustainable effort:** Alleviating poverty and unemployment is seen as an **ongoing**, **sustainable**, and **coordinated** process that must become a **culture of action**.
 4. **Collaboration and decentralisation:** Change will happen **when we collaborate**, and when **solutions are decentralised and coordinated** across society.
 5. **Systemic and structural change:** Long-term success requires **systemic change**—including **policy reform** and **corporate responsibility**, such as environmentally responsible practices with economic impact.
 6. **Internal and cultural transformation:** The group emphasizes the importance of **belief in ourselves**, and addressing **invisible societal issues** (e.g., environmental care and maintenance) alongside visible ones.
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4. **Where:** Indicates the location or context of the event or problem.
(Where should it be addressed?)

Participants describe the location of context (the “where”) of the solution as follows:

Online solutions ensure better reach

We should roll out wifi access where it is not available to ensure greater participation in the economy

Where there are high levels of poverty and unemployment

In our communities

The family gives us an entry point to the entire city

Communities

We need to involve Nelson Mandela Bay and the metro’s trading partners, the full value chain, to create opportunities for employment.

We need a systemic look to bring everyone into account for economic participation

Hotspot zones - where the highest levels of poverty and unemployment occur

Needy areas

Hotspots

We need to work in every municipal ward, especially its coal face sites, that is where target market is available

Everywhere where opportunity exists

The urban centre is full of opportunity for new employment

On a strategic level the places where people congregate, such as churches and taverns

- all corners. On a tactical level we need to identify quick wins

SUMMARY: WHERE SHOULD IT BE ADDRESSED?

Here is a summary of the central themes from the group's input on the question "*Where should the problem be addressed?*":

1. **Target high-need areas first:** The group emphasizes "**hotspots**"—areas with **high poverty and unemployment, needy communities, and municipal wards** where the need is most visible.
2. **Work at the community level:** Repeated references to "**our communities**", **families**, and **local congregating spaces** (e.g. **churches and taverns**) highlight the need for **grassroots, community-based action**.
3. **City-wide and metro-level coordination:** The problem must also be tackled across **Nelson Mandela Bay**, including its **economic value chains** and **trading partners**, suggesting a need for systemic and city-wide integration.
4. **Everywhere opportunity exists:** Opportunities for impact are **not limited** to hotspots—**urban centres, strategic gathering places, and economic zones** should all be part of the solution.
5. **Online and digital inclusion:** **Access to WiFi and online solutions** is seen as key to broader participation in the economy, especially for **reach and inclusivity**.
6. **Strategic and tactical levels:** Solutions must be **multi-layered**—strategically targeting influential spaces, while **tactically pursuing quick wins** and scalable interventions.

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5. **Why:** Explains the underlying causes, reasons, or motivations behind the issue. (**Why are we doing this?**)

Participants describe the causes, reasons and motivations (the "why") as follows:

To tackle issues at hand

We are called to help to prosper

To restore our country, to grow the economy

Restore hope, stability, prosperity

Stabilise country

Peace, stability, development

Create a positive difference

Equalize and harmonise

To bridge the gap between those with ample means and those without

To safeguard the human dignity of all

Join God in God's mission to help creation to flourish.

As a metaphor: by killing all fires in your neighbours' houses you will be safe as well

By combatting unemployment and poverty we help ourselves and stabilise the country

Positive difference in people's life

Positive transformation

Because we care, it is a life and death situation

We are all in this life together

To restore justice

Spatial development needs to be properly addressed - there is still spatial inequality

SUMMARY: WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Here is a summary of the central themes from the group's input on the question "*Why are we doing this?*":

1. **Restoring hope, justice, and dignity:** The group emphasizes the importance of **restoring human dignity, hope, and justice**, particularly for those most affected by inequality and poverty.
2. **Creating a stable and prosperous society:** There is a strong belief that addressing unemployment and poverty will **stabilise the country**, promote **peace**, and **grow the economy**.
3. **Positive transformation and impact:** The goal is to **make a real, positive difference** in people's lives, contributing to **development, prosperity, and equality**.
4. **Moral and spiritual responsibility:** Several comments reflect a sense of **calling**, including **joining God's mission**, reflecting a deep **ethical and faith-based motivation**.
5. **Collective well-being:** The group recognizes that **we are all interconnected**—"by helping others, we help ourselves." Tackling poverty and unemployment is seen as essential for the **safety and well-being of everyone**.
6. **Addressing deep-rooted inequality:** Special mention is made of **spatial inequality** and the need for **fairer development** across communities.

6. **How:** Outlines the processes, methods, or mechanisms involved in addressing the issue or achieving a desired outcome.

(How are we going to do this?)

Participants describe how we are going to address poverty and unemployment as follows:

Our strategy should be community mapping to identify assets and opportunities

Collaboration

We need an oversight body to empower initiatives

Support what already works

Careful not to reinvent the wheel

Strategic partnership with stakeholders

Collaboration

Having an expo of existing initiatives to introduce possibilities to new coworkers

Support exist poverty alleviation, develop our own employment programmes, influence policy reform

Mobilise right minded individuals

Mobilise resources behind endeavour

Communicate existing initiatives to a broader audience

Install wifi to promote access to economic activity, in order to level playing field

Sacrificial, put our own resources such as time and means on the table

Cut down on overconsumption and share resources

Working together equitably

Collaboration with conviction

Collaboration with strategy partners

Building partnerships / building entrepreneurship hubs in communities / look for employers to train people without skills

Coordination, we need to be dot joining, hold ourselves accountable, being an example

Collaborate with relevant people

SUMMARY: HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS?

Here is a summary of the central themes from the group's input on the question "*How are we going to do this?*":

1. **Collaboration is key:** The most recurring idea is the need for **collaboration**—with **stakeholders, strategic partners, relevant people**, and **like-minded individuals**—done **with conviction**, equity, and shared purpose.
2. **Build on what already works:** Instead of starting from scratch, the group wants to **support existing initiatives, avoid reinventing the wheel**, and **showcase what is already effective** (e.g. through expos).
3. **Community-driven strategies:** The group suggests **community mapping** to identify local **assets, opportunities**, and **needs**, and to **build entrepreneurship hubs** and **training networks** within communities.

4. **Resource mobilisation and accountability:** They highlight the need to **mobilise resources**, including **time, money**, and **skills**, and to **hold themselves accountable** through proper **coordination** and oversight.
5. **Influence and reform systems:** There's a clear aim to **develop their own employment programmes** and **influence broader policy reforms** to make lasting change.
6. **Expand access and communication:** Proposals include **installing WiFi** to enhance economic access and **communicating existing opportunities** to a wider audience.
7. **Sacrificial commitment:** The group stresses the importance of **personal investment**, sharing resources, and **reducing overconsumption** to enable sustainable change.

NEXT STEPS

1. Commit ourselves to one another and to the journey
2. Create a working document - online
3. Reflect about our input today, which themes crystallise?
4. At next meeting: choose priorities
5. Next meeting: 3 June
6. Each participant reports back what we have done regarding unemployment and poverty

DATABASE: EXISTING, RELEVANT INITIATIVES

This list needs to be developed:

INITIATIVE	CONTACT PERSON	PHONE	EMAIL	ADDRESS
Sakha Amathuba: "Empowering unemployed youth for practical job readiness"				https://sakha-amathuba.renderforestsites.com/
Mayibuye Youth				
Missionvale Care Centre				

Farming God's Way				
Harambee				

IN GENERAL

EXISTING INITIATIVES ACCORDING TO THE FEEDBACK FORM - Citywide Dialogue of 25 March 2025

Here is a **compiled list of initiatives already under way in the city**, as mentioned by respondents in their feedback after the City Dialogue event:

Youth Development & Mentorship

- Kariega Youth Development Forum
- Uitenhage Kings Basketball Club
- Mentorship of young entrepreneurs (privately initiated)
- Petra – training for children's ministry
- Rugby Players for Jesus – youth and men's ministries
- Self-development of youth through mentorship
- Youth work through churches and schools
- Skills development & job placements
- Psychosocial sessions in schools
- Drug education for children in school

Employment, Business, and Skills

- Work4aLiving – empowering the unemployed
- MES (Mould Empower Serve) – includes skills and job placement
- Business Chamber – Think Tank, workstreams, SMME support
- Small Business Chamber
- SA Youth Platform
- Local Economic Development initiatives (LED)

- Entrepreneurship support
- Support for SMMEs
- Coega IDZ – economic development and employment
- Mentorship & workplace coaching



Faith-Based and Community Networks

- Transformation Christian Network (TCN) – with a practical "toolbox"
- NMB Prayer Network
- NMB Preaching and Prayer Teams
- Churches offering safe spaces and community access
- Pastor's Breakfasts (Dave Pederson)
- Faith-Based Formations / Clergy collaboration
- Love NMB
- Sakha Amathuba



Social Upliftment & Safety

- Mayibuye Civic Movement – with various social benefit programs
- Abafazi – women-led community and business empowerment
- Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)
- 12-Step Recovery Programs for addiction
- Gender-Based Violence and Femicide initiatives
- Police forums and patrols
- Awareness programs in communities
- Neighbourhood crime-reduction forums
- Expansion of safety efforts to other wards
- Installation of surveillance cameras



Clean-Up and Environment

- Molly Blackburn Cluster cleaning initiatives
- Local neighbourhood clean-up campaigns
- Businesses organizing clean-up days
- Empowering the homeless to clean the city (linked to MES and Safe Spaces)
- Gardening projects



Civic Platforms & Forums

- Civil Society Structures
- Youth Formations
- Police and civil society forums
- Recognised fraternal networks
- Transformation-focused clergy and business networks



Education, Literacy, and Human Rights

- Literacy sessions
- Human Rights awareness workshops



Media and Communication

- **Kingfisher FM** – as media partner

This diverse landscape of initiatives shows that **many community, faith, business, and civic actors** are already playing key roles in Gqeberha. Respondents emphasized the need for **collaboration, integration, and shared strategy** to maximize the impact of these existing efforts.