



Voice of the Proletariat

District Publication



Nightmare of Youth Development (Unemployment)

Youth unemployment is a tremendous problem with a number of households living below poverty line. According to Stats SA there are a number of challenges faced by the youth in finding employment, given that as many as 50.2% of young people who are actively looking for jobs have education levels below matric, and while an additional 36.4% have only a matric qualification.

The first step towards abolishing the market economy, would be to establish state control of the labour market by expropriating the big businesses that employ the large majority of workers. It would not be a matter of “kicking out the multi-nationals,” but of taking them over, and advancing on the basis they have already laid.

We as Parks Leburu District of the YCL welcome the announcement by the Premier Mme Sylvia Lucas that a YOUTH FOR JOBS SUMMIT will be held this year to pave a way forward and resolve the youth developmental agenda.

Even among young people who are employed, low educational levels pose a serious constraint to advance their employment. This is despite

the improvement in the education profile of employed youth over the period 2008 to 2015. In 2015 as many as 44.5% had an education level below matric, while an additional 36.9% had only matric. Relatively few employed young people (21.2%) had a tertiary education.

The Parks Leburu District of the Young Communist League call on government to make education fashionable and increase its respective budget allocation of bursaries and scholarships for young people. The problem of abolishing unemployment by having a revolution is nowhere near as difficult as the impossible task of trying to abolish it without one!

As the Communist Manifesto argued, we should raise the “property question” to the forefront of all immediate, practical struggles. Just how we can have a communist revolution in an advanced industrial society remains to be seen – it’s never been done before. But we should be quite clear that this is “what we are about”.

We have observed that amongst young people we also have discouraged job-seekers. A person is considered to be a discouraged job-seeker if they wanted to work but there are no jobs in their area; they were unable to find work that required their skills; and/or they have lost hope of finding any kind of work.

As the Parks Leburu District we believe that we need to engage all young people on a multi-pronged approach to address unemployment. Combining radical policies for youth development and collectively with all stakeholders we can reduce unemployment by producing more job creators instead of job seekers. This can be done through youth co-operative development.

Cde Modise Letselebe – YCLSA District Secretary