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STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES TO MAINSTREAM YOUTH POLICY IN EKURHULENI.

BY

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the degree of

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SUPERVISOR: Dr K. POOE

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DECLARATION

I declare that **STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES TO MAINSTREAM YOUTH POLICY IN EKURHULENI** submitted for Master of Management in the Field of Governance (Public and Development Sector Monitoring and Evaluation) is my own original work. All the sources used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged.

SIGNATURE**……DATE**26 June 2025

STUDENT NUMBER: 0010544E

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ABSTRACT

The City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality has a highest share of youth unemployment in the Gauteng Province despite that it contributes to the largest economic share to the province's economic distribution because of its strength in manufacturing among other metropolitan municipalities in the province. Also, the National Youth Policy (NYP) places municipalities as the centres where service delivery is important within the communities and compels municipalities to develop strategies in line with the youth developmental strategy to intervene rigorously into the lives of the youthful populations within their jurisdictions. Therefore, the study sought to explore structures, systems and processes set up to mainstream the National Youth Policy within the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE) to understand how such a governance infrastructure benefits the youth. The findings revealed that the political instability within the CoE municipality interferes with the development of structures, systems and processes to mainstream the NYP policy to benefit the youth. The findings further revealed how the CoE mainstream the NYP according to political affiliations which renders the politically non-aligned youth at the periphery of human development.

Key Words: Governance, City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, National Youth Policy, Youth.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANC……African National Congress.

CoE……. City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality.

COGTA……...Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

EFF……. Economic Freedom Fighters.

EU……European Union.

IDP……...Integrated Development Plan.

NDP……. National Development Plan Vision 2030.

NYDA……. National Youth Development Agency.

NYP……. National Youth Policy.

OECD……. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

SAHEL……North Central African Region,

SST……. Social System Theory.

UNDP……. United Nations Development Programme.

UNO……United Nations Organisation.

CHAPTER ONE:

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

The study focused on the exploring and examining the key structures, systems and processes that mainstream the National Youth Policy (NYP). The study emphasised on identifying the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (CoE) in the Gauteng Province as a case study. For the purposes of this study, the term CoE was used throughout the study referring to the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. While mainstreaming youth development initiatives is a widely adopted strategy, studies indicate a lack of tangible evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of these policies (Hlungwani, 2020; NYP 2020-2030). Moreover, despite the global implementation of mainstreaming efforts, the expected positive outcomes, particularly for marginalised youth, have not been consistently observed. Therefore, the gap between policy intentions and realised impact highlights the need for more robust evaluation and targeted interventions. This could be attributed to how these policies are conceptualised, funded and implemented. Therefore, it becomes imperative to understand how the structures, systems and processes mainstream youth policies.

Mainstreaming the NYP is one of the fundamental initiatives to youth policy implementation. Mainstreaming is explained as a transformative process that is inclusive and consciously initiative-taking process that places the capabilities and rights of young men and women alongside those of other marginalised community members in development planning (Tirivanhu & Chirau, 2018). Mainstreaming includes the aspect of governance as it involves structures and processes that implement the policies. Therefore, governance was used in the study to support the mainstreaming of the NYP. As the NYP embeds policies that seek to promote the intergenerational equity and justice in placing young people's capabilities, this becomes a fundamental initiative to a comprehensive approach to youth development. The NYP envisions youth participation in decision-making in a human rights approach that constitute an integral dimension of the analysis, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in the intersectoral planning across all social, political and economic spheres (The Commonwealth Secretariat Report, 2019).

The successful mainstreaming of the NYP depends on the inclusion of young people in the decision-making processes. In South Africa, the developmental trajectory of the country espouses that youth development should

be given more priority (NDP, 2012). Similarly, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) assert the need to include young women and men in development planning initiatives to ensure seamless development among the country citizens. Therefore, it becomes worthwhile for the study to consider these aspects when engaging on issues that affects the mainstreaming of the NYP in the CoE as the study context.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.2.1 The International and African Context of youth exclusion in socioeconomic developmental initiatives

Globally, youth development is exemplified in the United Nations Organisation (UNO) system, through its World Programme of Youth to 2000 and Beyond (UN, 2018). This is also expressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which compels governments to develop youth developmental responsive policies to promote inclusive economic development (UN Global Youth Report, 2018). Amongst others, these guiding principles enshrined in these documents advocate for the commitment of certain priorities that places youth policy mainstreaming to encompass youth in policy decision-making. Accordingly, youth policy mainstreaming at the global level has been operationalised through governance approaches such as participatory governance. This may take various forms such as the global youth conferences and various structural formations and institutional arrangements, such as the Special Envoy on Youth which is seen as crucial for effective and efficient policy implementation (Kwon, 2019).

Despite that these guiding principles at international level have been emphasised owing to its valuable contribution to youth policy mainstreaming thus development, to date countries are still struggling to implement the SDGs 2030 Agenda which emphasise the placement of youth at the centre of development. To put this to light, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) 2021 report on the global statistics of youth unemployment, outline that globally a significant percentage of youth of the working age remain in the unemployment trajectory. Accordingly, this trajectory continues despite that literature suggest that the transition into the labour market of the youth has long-term impacts on their lives as well as on the socioeconomic development of countries (World Economic Forum, 2021). Comparatively, the ILO report 2020 points out that the youth in the continent of Africa remains disproportionately affected by the rates of unemployment despite that 70% of its population is comprised of relatively young population than other continents (ILO, 2021).

1.2.2 The South African Context of youth exclusion in the NYP policy mainstreaming

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 affirms the equal development of the country's citizens irrespective of age, gender, race, nationality or belief systems. Moreover, the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2020-2030 agenda set the tone for the mainstreaming of the youth policy in all sectors of society to enhance their capabilities to help change their course of life and contribute positively to the economic development of themselves and the society (NYP 2020-2030). In this line, literature suggest that youth policies are developed with the aim of promoting a holistic and integrated sustainable youth development to address the past and immediate persistent challenges such as poverty and unemployment faced by the youth (NYP, 2020). Coherently, the Stats SA (2022) states that the unabating socioeconomic exclusion of young people in South Africa despite that young people constitute more than 35.7% of the country's population have debilitating effects on the developmental trajectory of the country.

Moreover, empirical evidence suggests that youthful population remains marginalised and therefore not reflected in the composition of key government structures at local level (Enaifoghe & Dlamini, 2021). To alter this developmental challenge among the youth, the NYC 2020-2030 affirms the re-alignment of socioeconomic activities from the national, provincial and municipal levels to foster the inclusion of youth in policy decision-making to address their plight. Despite this noble affirmation, a plethora of studies have reaffirmed the vulnerability of the youth to socioeconomic shocks in different settings in South Africa (Hlungwani, Masuku & Magidi, 2021; Stats SA, 2021; NYC 2020-2030).

1.2.3 The prevalence of socioeconomic exclusion of the youth in the City of Ekurhuleni Municipality

The City of Ekurhuleni (CoE) is a metropolitan municipality situated in the eastern parts of the Gauteng Province. It is an industrialised zone of the Gauteng Province and South Africa. The CoE is estimated to have a population size of approximately 4, 045, 000 as of 2022 (UN Population Prospects, 2022). Over the years, the CoE has seen an increase in the unemployment rate among the general population at 31,8% compared to other municipalities in the Gauteng Province despite that it is one of the highly industrialised municipalities. Comparatively, within the unemployment strata, the youth constitute a magnitude of the unemployed at 36,9%. The vulnerability of the youth population in the CoE can be attributed to the municipality disdain for developing inclusive strategies, plans and programmes that seek to address issues of socioeconomic inclusion and development to empower the youth.

1.3 Problem Statement

The National Youth Policy (NYP) 2020-2030 policy which builds from the previous NYPs covering periods 2009-2015 and 2015-2020 respectively affirms the participation of youth in decision-making of policy formulation to

mainstream the youth developmental needs. To achieve this, the NYP obligates the national, provincial and local governments to develop targeted youth intervention programmes that seek to improve the lives of the youth by participating and engaging in sociocultural, economic and political terrains in all spheres of government interventions by 2030 (NYP, 2020). However, despite that the CoE has put in place the structures, systems and processes to implement the NYP, it is not known how these structures, systems and structures assist in improving the lives of the youth in the CoE. This is evidenced by the exponential increase in the number of protests by the disgruntled youth despite that the NYP emphasises the need for municipalities to mainstream the youth policy to youth developmental aspirations. A plethora of studies have highlight that youth-centred developmental policies that lacks youth participation in the decision-making processes, remain misaligned to the daily experiences of the youth (Gottschalk & Boran, 2023). Although numerous studies have addressed youth participation in decision-making processes in general terms, both globally and nationally (Jacobs & George, 2022; Crowley & Moxom, 2017), the issue of how municipalities put structures, systems, and processes to mainstream the NYP remains understudied. Therefore, it is imperative for the study to focus its attention on exploring and examining how the CoE put its structures, systems and processes to mainstream the NYP.

1.4 Purpose Statement

- The purpose of the study was to explore and examine how the CoE put in place structures, systems and processes to mainstream the National Youth Policy by employing a qualitative methodology. This type of method helped the study elicit quality insights from the policy implementers and how the youth benefitted from the National Youth Policy mainstreaming.

1.5 Research Question(s)

The proposed study will be guided by the following main research question:

- How do structures, systems and processes implemented in the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE) to mainstream the National Youth Policy?

1.5.1 Sub-Question(s)

The following sub-questions derived from the main question that will guide the study are as follows:

- To what extent has the key structures, systems and processes enabled effective mainstreaming of the National Youth Policy by the City of Ekurhuleni?

- How have Global North and South governments planned and implemented the mainstreaming of youth in government policy and institutions**?**
- What has been the experiences of metropolitan municipalities with mainstreaming of the NYP in South Africa?

1.6. Significance of the Study

The study elevates the debate on youth policy mainstreaming to necessitate youth development as one of the country's developmental aspirations. By doing so, the study firstly creates an opportunity for deeper understanding of the nature of the major problems that warrant attention on coming with strategies that seek to intervene in the developmental challenges faced by the youth. Secondly, the study contributes to the scarce academic literature on the governance of youth policy where youth participation is valued and promoted to ensure seamless development for the benefit of the country.

Overview of the Chapters

Chapter 1: Introduction and background to the study

This chapter introduces the study and background outlining the reasons why the National Youth Policy is important from the international, South African and the CoE perspectives drawn from literature. Also, the research problem, the purpose of the study, research question and sub-questions that guide the study are explored to give insight on how the study should go about.

Chapter 2: Literature Review: Youth and the Institutionalisation of their Inclusion in the Mainstreaming of the Youth Policy

This chapter outlined the review of literature and provide an understanding of the theory that guided the development and the implementation of the NYP, the meaning of the Youth Policy, the Youth policy cycle, Youth policy mainstreaming, Youth structures and local government and Youth participation, empowerment and policy implementation in local government. This will enable an understanding of the structures, processes and systems put in place for such policy implementation to materialise and thereby shed the light on the role and function of youth in governance.

Chapter 3: Theoretical Framework: Social Systems Theory

This chapter outlined the theory that guided the study to answer the research questions in order achieve the purpose of the study. This was done focusing on the Social Systems theory.

Chapter 4: Methodology

This chapter introduced the methods used to gather data, the research approach, study design, sampling strategy and criteria, research tools and their application, process of analysis and interpretation thereof. Also, the limitations, feasibility and positionality, ethical considerations and the validity, reliability and dependability of the study are discussed.

Chapter 5: Presentation of the findings of the study

This chapter focused on the presentation of the findings which the study has unearthed on how the phenomenon of the National Youth Policy mainstreaming by the structures, systems and processes is implemented in the City of Ekurhuleni and how the intended beneficiaries benefit from the programme.

Chapter 6: Discussion, Implications and Conclusion of the study

This chapter presents the summary of the findings, implications for further research and conclusions of the study. The implications for further research will be discussed to point out gaps which the policy implementers of the National Youth Policy should take notice of when improving policy. The chapter will also introduce the strengths and weaknesses that the study has encountered during its execution.

Chapter Summary

This chapter discussed the introduction and background to the study on how the mainstreaming of the NYP benefits the youth. This was done looking into how the youth policy was conceptualised from the international perspectives on youth policy governance and how these international perspectives as well as the constitutional imperatives influenced the South African government conceptualisation of the NYP. The chapter also discussed the problem statement on what compounds the implementation of the NYP in the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality to achieve the youth developmental goals as espoused in the NDP vision 2030. This informed the development of the purpose, the research question and sub-questions that guided the study and search for literature. Also, the reasons for the significance of the study to literature contribution were discussed and how it can influence youth policy development and implementation were discussed. The chapter also outlined the chapters which guided the development of the study. The following chapter discusses the literature review by exploring the concept of youth, youth policy and mainstreaming as well as challenges to youth policy mainstreaming from international perspectives and how these perspectives can influence the South African implementation of the NYP.

CHAPTER TWO:

LITERATURE REVIEW

Youth and the Institutionalisation of their Inclusion in the Mainstreaming of the National Youth Policy

2.1 Introduction

To analyse the mainstreaming of NYP in local government, it is important to establish the global understanding of the literature review by exploring the concept of youth, youth policy and youth policy mainstreaming from international perspectives and the South African perspective. Moreover, the challenges to youth policy mainstreaming are analysed from international perspectives and how these perspectives can influence the South African implementation of the NYP. This enabled the study to understand how the structures, processes and systems are put in place for NYP policy implementation to materialise and thereby shed the light on the role and function of youth in governance.

2.1.1 The concept of Youth

Globally, there is no definite concept of youth as its definition is depended on the context where it is applied. However, the United Nations Envoy 2015 agenda for youth has strived to come with ways to address this concept. In this regard, the UN defines youth as period of transition from dependence of childhood to adulthood, independence and awareness of the interdependencies within community and statistical consistency across regions (UN, 2015). According to the UN declaration of 2015, countries have liberty to define their own understanding of the youth concept with consideration to the contextual factors (UN, 2015).

Despite this, there seems to be an accepted age range of youth among countries between the ages of 15-35 years of age that constitute the youth age. The South African definition of the concept of youth is determined by the contextual factors that put young people at the receiving end of the country's developmental trajectories since 1994 democratic dispensation (NYP, 2020). The NYP Vision 2020-2030 defines youth as young people between the ages of 14-35 years including all genders and all racial groups. The South African youth definition is consistent with the African Union Youth Charter as encapsulated in the African Union Commission 2006. This charter deliberates that young people between the ages of 18-35 constitute the youthful citizens. In terms of job market activity, this group of people constitute a high number of unemployed people despite that there are several interventions to address this challenge. Some of these interventions are the NYP, the National Youth Development Agency which is constitutionally mandated to empower the youthful population in South Africa through economic empowerment and skills developmental amongst other mandates.

Despite these interventions, (Stats SA, 2023) reaffirms the vulnerability of the youth to alarming unemployment rates while the NDP Vision 2030 envisions a country with youthful population who are gainfully employed to contribute to the economy of the country. This is so because the youth constitute a majority of the population in South Africa, Stats SA (2019), and the recognition for the sociocultural, political and economic norms that continue to disadvantage them from full economic participation is imperative (NYP, 2020).

2.1.2 Youth Policy

Compared to other social policy areas, youth policy is a relatively new phenomenon. The common and widely spread vision of youth policy concerns various actions, which are under jurisdictions of the ministries of education. But youth policy is an overly broad area because it can include the participation of authorities from various fields such as social, health, education, culture, national defence, employment policies. The UN (2020) report on economic and social challenges and opportunities put to light that public policy operates in overly complex contexts as it seeks to remedy different societal problems and bring about positive change in society for different social groups. Consistently, the United States Agency for International Development (2022) embeds youth developmental initiatives in social policies that seek to measure different time horizons and demand different resources for addressing youth related problems effectively.

As policies are developed and implemented by and within various institutions at distinct levels, from organisational and local level to national and supranational level Enaifoghe & Dlamini (2021) argue that youth inclusion in these processes is rarely considered despite an acknowledgement for their creative skills and pioneering urge. Comparatively, Lonean et al (2020) hold the view that perspective patterns of public policies in different countries in policy learning and transfer and co-operation of countries on this theme of youth policy, show some form of complexity in the application. This so happens as youth policies are regarded as recent development within the public sector and a minor policy area that often entails co-ordination and integration of policies that are already operating (OECD, 2022). Therefore, youth centred policy is not a clear-cut and not easily disentangled from policies in spheres like education, social inclusion, the labour market and integration (Tosuna, Untb & Wadensjöc, 2017).

Fortunately, in the recent years, the attitude to youth policy has changed. For instance, in the European Union several mechanisms were adopted to develop multi-level and cross-sectorial holistic youth policy, that aims at improving the situation of young people in the EU. The Council of the European Union in June 2002 published a White Paper and established a framework for European SCS Journal Studies of Changing Societies: co-operation in the field of youth. On this basis, at national, regional, and local levels, governments of EU member states set youth national priorities by developing youth policies, which recognize youth as an important group of population.

Nowadays the range of youth policies and strategies represents a patchwork of agreements among various levels of governments, ministries, departments, communities, and stakeholders.

2.1.3 The international perspectives on how structures, systems and processes to mainstream the youth policy governance

Youth development discourse globally straddles two distinctive perspectives. There is a concerted effort on the deficit perspective to describe young people as wards in need of welfare. On the other side, there is the positive attribution to youth development perspective which speaks to the empowerment of young people to perform their role as change agents and strategic partners in development (Charles & Jameson-Charles, 2014). For example, these two perspectives have informed the youth development in the Commonwealth Caribbean as it has assumed a far more complex and challenging character over the last two decades.

Consistently, Charles & Jameson-Charles (2014) lament the perceptions that young people are in a crisis and that they represent a mortal threat to established social order, and this have been evident in every generation. This has led to the lamentations on the conditions of the youth in the changing global environment to be more pronounced (CARICOM Commission on Youth, 2010). Moreover, it has been noticed in several countries that the prevailing youth development policies and frameworks are even considered a strain on the public purse and incapable of satisfactorily resolving a myriad of issues and challenges that belie their developmental needs (World Bank, 2012). The World Bank report of 2003 suggests that significant numbers of young people are disproportionately impacted by social exclusion, economic marginalization, an increasingly virulent and dysfunctional political culture and disturbing displays of socially irresponsible behaviour (World Bank, 2003).

Considering the Caribbean youth experience, the World Bank report (2012) report that "amidst the panic and rising crescendo of concern, the majority of young people in the Caribbean are coping with the many challenges". In this context, many young people have made, and continue to make, significant contributions to the development of their communities and societies, even in the face of a deformed governance culture and limited opportunities to facilitate youth engagement and active citizenship (Ryan et al, 2013). These experiences by the youth presents a global picture of the challenges which the youth of the global countries contend with regarding their development and empowerment.

2.1.3.1 The United States of America's experience of putting structures, systems and processes to mainstream youth policy governance.

United States of America (US) is one of the countries whose economy and policy direction follows the neoliberal economics trajectory. At the centre of it, as the proponent of global capitalism which has over the years contributed to the social, political and economic upheaval for the people with low social standing in society, has contributed to the higher levels of unemployment, inequality and economic marginalisation among the youth (Hart & Atkins, 2002). It is reported that although from the policy perspective there are concerns about the future of youth development, few steps have been taken to address the social, political and economic conditions that shape the youth developmental outcomes (Ginwright et al, 2005). This has been observed in working-class communities of colour where public policies are used as punitive structures to exacerbate community problems.

In this regard, Hart & Atkins (2002) note that the failure of the policy structures to address the identified problems that afflicts youth development, continues to bar them to participate gainfully to civic participation, sound quality educational attainment and healthy adulthood. Arguably, there has been a concerted reprisal from the policy makers to dispel the notion of even development proposed by the researchers in this aspect who are knowledgeable about the conditions which the American live under (Hart & Atkins, 2002). This has over the years subjected this youthful population to coercive public policies, ineffective public institutions that subject them to economic exclusion and blamed for social ills when things go wrong in societies of the African American communities and other Latino groups (Ginwright et al, 2005).

From the perspective of policy making, Ginwright et al (2005) argue that the current wave of policy renders the youth from these communities as second-class citizens while their white counterparts are afforded efficient support that enable them to grow and gainfully participate in social, political and economic activities of the country. These authors further pointed out that the current conceptual frameworks offer a critique for youth development which they conceptualise as problem driven and possibility driven. According to these authors, in the problem-driven approach, youth are viewed as threats to an orderly society while the possibility driven approach views youth as passive consumers of civic life.

While these two approaches offer a salient reprieve to the conservative ideals, both do not elaborate on the socioeconomic and challenges as well the political exclusion of the youth in the broader American inclusive developmental trajectory espoused in its democratic principles. Consistently, while considering the urban aspect of youth life, it is considered that youth inclusion should be conceptualised within the urban political economy. As urbanisation in most societies where African American and Latino societies constitute social inadequacies composed of urban decay, economic deprivation, health services dilapidation and deficiencies, racism, police

harassment, and deplorable educational outcomes, subject the youth among these population groups to heightened social problems (Ginwright et al, 2005).

An understanding of the youth problems cannot be divorced from these structural dispositions. Therefore, in this regard, studies indicate that an understating of the political economy of specific forms of social capital in the community settings can highlight an alternative social justice policy framework that stresses young people involvement in social and community involvement on issues that affects them. Youth policy can be understood as a range of policies, and co-ordination of the policies, which seek to support young people in transition to becoming active members of society. (Lonean, Braziene and Taru, 2020) argue that the primary areas of youth policy are informed by the need to instil lifelong learning and education, the labour market and social inclusion, civil society and participation and health.

Moreover, Lonean et al, (2020) further claim that the aim of youth policy is to offer young people better support along the integration of interventions across three dimensions which include the cross-ministerial, cross-sectoral and cross-level dimensions. Consistently, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (2019) add that youth-centred policy field cuts across various areas including employment, education, health, housing, mobility, justice and sports, among others. In this regard, the OECD further explain that youth strategies can provide a guiding framework to unite youth stakeholders from government and civil society behind several strategic priorities for young people and deliver public services in a coherent manner across administrative boundaries. Moreover, the Youth, Peace and Security (2022) propound that the inclusion of the youth in the formulation and implementation of policies with solid indicators in existence to back up commitments, youth strategies can increase young people's ownership, transparency and accountability. (Lonean et al, 2020) add that youth policy should be formulated from short-term measures focusing on the local significance for a clearly bounded target group to multi-annual policies that seek to influence all young people over a lengthy period.

2.1.3.2 The European Union experience of putting structures, systems and processes to mainstream the youth policy governance.

The EU youth policy draws from the model that transcends levels and sectors around the EU countries. Since the EU consists of twenty-seven countries with each having its jurisdictional capacities in terms of policy development and implementation, challenges remain in adopting the youth policies. Youth policy remains a good of example of how the youth can be organised and governed. Relatively, the inclusion of the concept of youth in European policy is a recent phenomenon that some countries within the region straddles with. It is believed that the first official references to an EU youth policy can be traced back to the 1957 in the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community. In this regard, Article 50 of the treaty provides that member states shall, within the framework of a joint programme, encourage the exchange of young workers.

Moreover, Ellison (2021) asserts that “parallel to the great socioeconomic transformations occurring after World War II, and under the developing era of globalization, neoliberalism has constituted a political and cultural discourse widely informing public and private action in Western countries, and has strongly influenced the meaning and the concrete evolution of youth transition, shaping the risks and the ideas of inclusion of social systems between education, training, work and welfare policies”. Within this line of thinking, Leccardi et al, (2011) & Mach, (2003) postulate that the “Central Eastern Europe experience was influenced by the socio-political transition from socialism, followed by entrance to the European Union, created new conditions for youth development, marked by uncertainty but also raising hopes and ambitions”. To add, Krzaklewska et al (2023) posit that in both contexts, the widespread reaction to the economic crisis that started in 2007/8, still influenced by neoliberal winds, has been that of austerity, worsening the condition of weaker groups of population, and of young people among them.

Moreover, it is also considered that socioeconomic transformations occurred differently among the EU countries, and this influence different social implications, and therefore different impact in shaping youth transitions (Krzaklewska et al, 2023). This the authors believes that it was due to “the varying degrees of economic development and solidity across Europe, but also to the distinct settings in terms of public policies and of multi-level governance between national and local levels”. Moreover, (Antonucci et al., 2014) assert that “within the European space, youth policies tend to mirror the general structure of national welfare policies, which in turn are connected to national and local economies and labour markets, and so policies addressing young people’s needs reveal distinct configurations of themes, priorities, resources, and approaches among European countries”.

Considering what Walther (2006) postulated the recognition of youth policies in the EU, shed light on the relevance of the four worlds of European welfare which is the Continental, Mediterranean, Anglo-Saxon, and Nordic. These differences explain the “existence of more varieties of youth social citizenship according to national settings in the field of social assistance and of labour policies” (Chevalier, 2018). Additionally, Krzaklewska et al, (2023) proposes that the main horizons in youth policies in EU include the element of empowerment, employment, belonging and engagement and this is understood, planned and managed according to ages and in relation to countries’ specific conditions and arrangements. Krzaklewska et al. (2023) note that the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027 base its youth developmental logic on engaging, connecting, and empowering young people, and adopts a transversal perspective according to which policy decisions’ impact on young people. This must also be verified across several fields, ranging from education to employment, from health to social inclusion and social participation (Krzaklewska et al, 2023).

2.1.3.3 The African youth experience of putting structures, systems and processes to mainstream the youth policy governance.

The concept of the youth policy mainstreaming in the African continent has emerged as a powerful developmental strategy and gained currency in academic and policy networks at the turn of the millennium (Christiansen, Utas & Vigh, 2006). Emerging studies show that Africa as young continent is home to a 70% young population under 30 years of age with many facing key global challenges to be managed with an array of development, immigration, and social policies (Kelly & Kamp 2015, p.7). In concert with this assertion, the (United Nations, 2015) report shows that while Africans currently only comprise 16% of the world's population, the continent has the most rapidly growing population and by 2050, more than half of global growth is expected to take place within the continent.

Therefore, the inclusion of the youth in governance structures becomes imperative. However, Oinas et al (2018) notes that there is a growing interest in understanding how the mounting wave of rebellions, unrest, conflicts and even revolutions on the continent as well as the increasing migrations of African youth towards the global north. In this aspect, Resnick & Thurlow (2015) & Feixa, Leccardi & Nilan (2016) posit that those have studies shown the relationship between the alarming prospects of stifling generational and geographical divides and growing, hyper visible inequalities. Convincingly, Oinas et al (2018) illuminate that both factors contribute to the creation of affective and interpersonal experiences of marginalization and relative deprivation among young people in terms of their economic, social, and political standing and their life chances in the future, potentially leading to unrest and dissension among them. One of the concerning phenomena that has been observed in most African countries is the concept of gerontocracy or rule by the elderly which has over the years contributed to the exclusion of the youth from governance structures.in favour of the old people in governance who by nature does not represent the aspirations of the youth.

In support of this view, Oinas et al, (2018) argue that this concept points to the to the ways in which young people are systematically denied access to political power or economical resources by older generations. This phenomenon has been identified as one of the contributors to the exclusion of the youth to the governance issues that affects them. In this aspect, Onias et al (2018) put that the notion of the political is, however, unusually challenging to define when attempting to reach a better understanding of youthful engagements in the public life and societies of the vast continent. In the case of Africa, it is pertinent to go beyond discussing mere political participation in existing formal structures, such as the state and the government.

In African post-colonial contexts, Onias et al (2018) note that discussing politics is also constrained for the youth due to the negative connotations attached to the word 'political' as it carries huge impediments to the socioeconomic needs of the youth. As observed in other contexts outside Africa, the inclusion of the youth structures in governance structures has effected social change and this have a redistributive element (Allaste &

Cairns, 2016). To widen the scope in which the youth structures can be afforded a chance to participate and govern their own affairs is through participatory governance which entails the seamless interaction of societal members with an aim to arrive at developmental outcome.

This can be achieved through changing the material conditions of the youth that stifles them from participating in the governance structures to effect social change (della Porta & Mattoni, 2014). Networks and mechanisms of power produce subject positions, discourses and ideas on what is considered normal and possible, and moments when these assumptions of power are challenged can be considered political. Therefore, it is imperative for African countries to come with youth developmental initiatives through implementing youth friendly policy frameworks that breaks the chain of poverty among them.

2.4 Mainstreaming youth policy

Mainstreaming youth policies has been a contentious issue over the world as there is no definite explanation of mainstreaming youth policy. This is dependent on the contextual factors which the country finds itself in and the country's developmental agenda. Many countries have specific developmental agendas expressed in their policy frameworks. Scholars in governance literature conclude that mainstreaming youth policies have redistributive element to achieve seamless development between young people and adults. This is so because mainstreaming youth policy has an empowerment effect on the youthful population. Globally, youth population developmental initiatives have been neglected despite that in many countries, youth constitute most of the population.

The OECD (2019) report recognises that young people have specific needs and interests across all policy and service areas including in employment, education, health, justice, housing, transportation, sports, gender equality and environment, among others. The report further highlights that from the OECD Youth Governance Surveys it was established that youth organisations in OECD countries are most satisfied with the work of their government in sports, culture and leisure. Adversely, the youth in these countries express significantly lower levels of satisfaction in developmental initiatives such as inclusion in the policy decision-making on issues that have direct effect on them. Youth inclusion in policy decision-making has been noted to have productive and empowerment attributes and help the youth to be active citizens of a country. This assertion is echoed by Enaifoghe & Dlamini (2021) who in their South African study focusing on youth developmental initiatives found that the inclusion of the youth in policy decision-making empowers the youth and encourage them to take charge of their lives and also improve their access to resources as well as to transform their consciousness through their beliefs with an attitude change and values. In addition, the OECD (2020) note the long-term benefits go beyond the benefits for young people in working towards equality for them. From this observation, youth policy mainstreaming is seen as a catalyst for youth developmental initiatives with the youth in involved in planning.

Youth exclusion in policy and governance platforms has been a phenomenon of great concern in many developing and developed countries. An argument posed by Masuku et al (2020) reverberate this expression in the way that the youthful population are continually side-lined in policy matters that affects them. To support this argument, convincingly, Oinas et al (2018) illuminate that these factors contribute to the creation of affective and interpersonal experiences of marginalization and relative deprivation among young people in terms of their economic, social, and political standing and their life chances in the future, potentially leading to unrest and dissension among them. One of the concerning phenomena that has been observed in most African countries is the concept of gerontocracy or rule by the elderly which has over the years contributed to the exclusion of the youth from governance structures in favour of the old people in governance who by nature does not represent the aspirations of the youth.

In support of this view, Oinas et al (2018) argue that this concept points to the to the ways in which young people are systematically denied access to political power or economical resources by older generations. Moreover, it has been noticed in several countries that the prevailing youth development policies and frameworks are even considered a strain on the public purse and incapable of satisfactorily resolving a myriad of issues and challenges that belie their developmental needs (World Bank, 2012). The world bank report of 2003 suggests that significant numbers of young people are disproportionately impacted by social exclusion, economic marginalization, an increasingly virulent and dysfunctional political culture and disturbing displays of socially irresponsible behaviour.

Considering the Caribbean youth experience, the World Bank report (2012) report that "amidst the panic and rising crescendo of concern, the majority of young people in the Caribbean are coping with the many challenges". In this context, many young people have made, and continue to make, significant contributions to the development of their communities and societies, even in the face of a deformed governance culture and limited opportunities to facilitate youth engagement and active citizenship (Ryan et al, 2013). These experiences by the youth presents a global picture of the challenges which the youth of the global countries contend with regarding their development and empowerment. Therefore, in this regard, countries are implored to take matters of participatory governance seriously which include youth participation.

2.5 Experiences of youth policy mainstreaming from the global perspectives.

Youth globally face a myriad of developmental challenges in both developed and developing countries. For instance, the United States which is regarded as the best example of democratic governance principles, experience of youth policy mainstreaming fails short of its democratic principles. Youthful populations of colour face a myriad of challenges regarding youth policy mainstreaming. In this regard, Hart et al (2002) note that the failure of the policy structures to address the identified problems that afflict even youth development irrespective of colour,

which is just a pigment of the skin not a determining factor to ability, continues to bar the youth from African-American and Latino communities from participating gainfully to civic participation, attaining sound quality educational outcomes and healthy adulthood.

Consistently, the policy outcomes continue to dispel the notion of even development proposed by the researchers in this aspect who are knowledgeable about the conditions which the American youth from marginalised communities live under (UNDP, 2010). This has over the years subjected these youthful population to coercive public policies, ineffective public institutions that continually subjects them to economic exclusion and blamed for social ills when things go wrong in societies of the marginalised communities of African American and Latino.

This has made Ginwright et al (2005) to argue from the youth policy mainstreaming perspective that the current wave of policy renders the youth from these communities as second-class citizens while their white counterparts are afforded efficient support that enable them to grow and gainfully participate in social, political and economic activities of the country. These authors further pointed out that the current conceptual frameworks offer a critique for youth development which they conceptualise as problem driven and possibility driven. According to these authors, in the problem-driven approach, youth are viewed as threats to an orderly society while the possibility driven approach views youth as passive consumers of civic life. While these two approaches offer a salient reprieve to the conservative ideals, both do not elaborate on the socioeconomic challenges as well the political exclusion of the youth in the broader America's inclusive developmental trajectory espoused in its democratic principles.

Taking note of these experiences by the urban youth life in the US, it is considered that youth inclusion should be conceptualised within the urban political economy. As urbanisation in most societies where African American and Latino societies constitute social inadequacies composed of urban decay, economic deprivation, health services dilapidation and deficiencies, racism, police harassment, and deplorable educational outcomes, subject the youth among these population groups to heightened social problems (Ginwright et al, 2005). An understanding of the youth problems cannot be divorced from these structural dispositions.

Therefore, in this regard, studies indicate that an understating of the political economy of specific forms of social capital in the community settings can highlight an alternative social justice policy framework that stresses young people involvement on governance of issues that affects them as well as inclusion in social and community activities as they are the future generation of the country. Emerging studies show that Africa as young continent is home to a 70% young population under 30 years of age with many facing key global challenges to be managed with an array of development, immigration and social policies (Kelly & Kamp 2015, p.7).

In concert with this assertion, the United Nations (2015, p.7) report shows that while Africans currently only comprise 16% of the world's population, the continent has the most rapidly growing population and by 2050, more than half of global growth is expected to take place there. Therefore, the inclusion of the youth in governance structures becomes imperative. However, Oinas et al (2018) notes that there is a growing interest in understanding

how the mounting wave of rebellions, unrest, conflicts and even revolutions on the continent as well as the increasing migrations of African youth towards the global North. In this aspect, Resnick & Thurlow (2015) as well as Feixa, Leccardi & Nilan (2016) posit that, studies have shown the relationship between the alarming prospects of stifling generational and geographical divides and growing, hyper visible inequalities. Talking about the youth experiences in Zimbabwe, Masuku et al*,* (2020) illuminate that among a myriad of challenges in policy formulation, there has been little or no room for consultation in formulating, designing and implementation of youth policies. This phenomenon has been observed in many African countries. Also, this phenomenon has been identified as one of the contributors to the exclusion of the youth to the policy governance on issues that affects them.

In this aspect, the notion of the participatory governance is, however, unusually challenging to define when attempting to reach a better understanding of youthful engagements in the public life and societies of the vast continent. In the case of Africa, it is pertinent to go beyond discussing mere political participation in existing formal structures, such as the state and the government, as in classic political science although this caution is relevant everywhere nowadays. In African post-colonial contexts, Onias et al*,* (2018) note that discussing politics is also constrained for the youth due to the negative connotations attached to the word 'political' as it carries huge impediments to the socioeconomic developmental needs of the youth. As observed in other contexts outside Africa, the inclusion of the youth structures in governance structures has contributed to social change and this have a redistributive element to social justice (Allaste & Cairns 2016, p. 3). To widen the scope in which the youth policy structures can be afforded a chance to participate and govern their own affairs is through participatory governance which entails the seamless interaction of societal members with an aim to arrive at developmental outcome. This can be achieved through changing the material conditions of the youth that stifles them from participating in the governance structures to effect social change (della Porta and Mattoni, 2014). As networks and mechanisms of power produce subject positions, discourses and ideas on what is considered normal and possible, and moments when these assumptions of power are challenged can be considered political. Therefore, it is imperative for African countries to come with youth developmental initiatives through mainstreaming youth friendly policy frameworks that breaks the chain of poverty among them. Lessons drawn from the SAHEL region illuminate great lessons which other African countries including South Africa can learn from. In this region, numerous frameworks have been adopted to promote democracy and good governance practices, including the political participation of women and youth. What is of observable challenge as in many settings, the implementation of this noble strategy is seldom seen (Okeo et al, 2021). It is conceptualised within the realm of governance that these current efforts should therefore put a hold on the adoption of new laws and policies, and innovative strategies should be developed to bridge the gap that persists between national and international laws, policies, and programs on the one hand and their actual implementation on the ground on the other (Okeo et al, 2021). As is a common trend in all African countries, youth aged twenty-four and under make up more than 64% of the population in West and Central Africa.

However, the phenomenon of gerontocracy as it has been observed in other African countries and its influence on the policy making, impacts negatively on the youth involvement in decision-making on issues that affects them. This remains contradictory to the aspirations of equal human development initiatives that envisages youth involvement in policy making and decision-making considering the demographic weight which the youth commands (Ikelegbe & Garuba, 2011, p. 98). This phenomenon continually excludes youth from leadership roles within formal politics and the economy. In this region, although there are some positive developments at the policy level to recognise the relevance of the youth to development, "discussions of the youth bulge and demographic dividend highlight the ways that young people are presented as both a threat and a potential resource" (Ikelegbe et al 2011, p. 99). It is recognised that youth are full of energy and initiatives and presents a productive force and a pillar on which the future of a country rests.

2.6 Challenges with youth policy mainstreaming.

Youthful populations have continually been the subject of development in many countries for quite some time. However, in many of these countries, there have been strategies to elevate the concerns of the youth in policy platforms with little or no evidence of palpable implementation that resonate with youth development. For instance, Kempe (2012, p. 1) points out that in Kenya despite that the youth developmental aspirations have been elevated in the policy structures considering that the youth comprised 20 % of the Kenyan population, youth remain under-represented in developmental initiatives. To authentic this, several surveys, reports and studies conducted in Kenya point out to the vulnerability of the youth to various social exclusion. This includes the persistent risks and challenges such as unemployment, marginalisation, police harassment, and impediments in accessing social services such as education and healthcare (Mutuku, 2009; UN Development Programme, 2010). These experiences are similar to the youth in the SAHEL region. Despite that the youth comprise 60% of the total population in this region, the youth are constantly at the receiving end of the developmental initiatives in this region. This is constituted by under-employed or unemployment and this has been noted to characterise a looming threat to the peaceful co-existence among the population in this region (Sommers, 2011). Although policymakers note the higher likelihood of security crises in these countries, little have been done to leverage on the potentialities and skills which the youth must add to the developmental needs of these countries (Sommers, 2011). The lack of youth policy mainstreaming has led to young people facing tremendous challenges, including climate instability, regional insecurity, limited economic resources and opportunities in the face of population growth (UNDP, 2012), and a limited supply of formal-sector jobs relative to their numbers. In a subset of countries, notably those in the Sahel, these multi-dimensional crises have contributed to instability and severe governance challenges (Mindzhe, 2015).

Going back to Kenya, Kempe (2012) assert the relevance of the youth in the country's developmental trajectory. The author argues that youth will remain a significant share of Kenya's population for the near future. Therefore, developing and implementing appropriate strategies, policies and programmes to mitigate the risks and challenges

the youthful population face, must be much more of a priority for the government than it currently is. The author further notes that any failure to provide appropriate opportunities for this large segment of the population could have enormous economic, political, cultural, and social consequences. Therefore, it is further recognised that engaging the youth population fully in governance matters and youth policy formulation is no longer a choice, but an imperative in the development process that is also recognised by the government (Republic of Kenya, 2007). Lately, Kempe (2012) note that the government of Kenya has embarked on several efforts to address the youth challenges. This is due to what Mutuku (2009 p. 4) put to light that that 'youth marginalisation in Kenya has persisted since independence in spite of various policies formulated and even implemented to assist them'.

However, this seems exaggerated given the country's demographic history. What is evident, however, is that in the last several years the government has taken steps to engage the youth. Prior to that, the government's most notable youth intervention was the establishment of the National Youth Service in 1964 (Republic of Kenya, 2006). Comparatively, in the SAHEL region, Mindzie (2015) note that diverse strategies have been implemented to demonstrate a promise in mainstreaming the youth policy by promoting the meaningful participation of women and youth, such as advocacy for the implementation of clear and concrete policy recommendations, active engagement of the media, and coordination among organizations to increase effectiveness. For instance, in Senegal, best practices shared by leaders of the June 23 Movement highlighted the importance of agreeing on a concrete strategy, defining clear objectives, and building broad and strong alliances (Mindzie, 2015). In this instance, youth engagement through meaningful dialogues and consultation on governance and youth policy matters were presented as critical tools for inclusive engagements. Moreover, Mindzie (2015) notes that in Niger, civil society organisations have developed strategies to monitor the adoption and implementation of budgets by local governments. In this regard, a citizen budget session is organized annually, which provides an opportunity to analyse budget implementation for the previous year and calls on the government to explain established gaps, to define budget projections, and to make recommendations to the budget ministry. Consistently, at the local level, (Mindzhe, 2015) postulates that in this regard, young people are encouraged to participate in budget preparation. Alternative citizens spaces also seek to increase gender mainstreaming in local and national budgets by assessing populations' expectations and conducting gender analyses of budgets (Mindzie, 2015).

2.7 Youth Participatory Governance

In literature on youth participatory governance, Garcés & Montoya (2010); Krauskopf (2008); Balandini (2005) & Rodriguez (2005) postulate that youth political participation in local governance and decision-making remains most interpreted within the realm of formal policy and public institutions. This happens as a form of extended consultations in policy issues and areas of service provision such as education and health (Garcés & Montoya 2010). Youth participation is rooted in critical theory that aims to address youth exclusion, social injustices and

inequalities inn participation in governance and decision-making (Collin, 2008; Giroux 2009). Nevertheless, Giroux (2009) argue that even though this is implemented in abroad spectrum of governance, its implementation is still more in line with the notion of youth participating for the sake of participating, instead of youth participating to shape policies that affect their lives and their communities.

It is not surprising that recent literature on youth participation in governance highlights youth as active citizens, endowed with rights and capacities to operate in a much more complex world (Balandini 2005; Dahlgren 2007; Krauskopf 2008; Garcés Montoya 2010). This considers that youth development research both reflects and informs societal notions of young people and affecting whether practitioners conceive of their charges as problems or as resources. Moreover, Sutton (2007) states that this also reflects societal notions of equity and determines whether practitioners view young people as isolated individuals or as embedded within socio-political structures. Looking at youth involvement from the broader perspective of citizenship and democratic capacity-building, (Kara, 2007) believes that evaluations play a critical role in ensuring the quality of the experience of being involved in decision-making. As observed Kara (2007) further notes that youth and the local governance structures are seemingly embedded in excellent organisations using youth involvement mechanisms that are flawed in their design or involved with excellent mechanisms embedded in flawed organisations. This result in the vulnerability of the youth to being undermined by what (Kara, 2007) classify as either "sentimentally stalled," "subtly squelched" or "subconsciously subverted."

2.7.1 Sentimentally Stalled

Observations from literature have shown the youth involvement of mechanisms that are conceptualised as well intentioned by governance structures to implement what they think is an effective model for the youth population while that really is not (Kara, 2007). Unfortunately, the author argues that these are never realised because governance mechanisms at the local level are inclined with initiating something they believe that it is in the best interest of the youth that generate substantial goodwill among the youth who are connected to the governance mechanisms of the local area.

According to Kara (2007), these youth sentiments inadvertently stall the development of more meaningful mechanisms because of the emotional connection to the governance structures that constrains them from offering critical feedback. This is compounded by the fact that the governance structures often lack the skills or temperament to create a space to receive critical feedback from the youth they are meant to support and assist. The author notes that without much experience or familiarity with the principles and practice of participatory democracy, youth involvement mechanisms usually operate at a fraction of their capacity.

Moreover, literature agrees that politics always infringe in youth policy conceptualisation, thus rendering the governance structures who are not representative of the entire youth needs (Kara, 2007). The author further

elaborates that youth involved with these types of mechanisms such as youth advisory councils for community organisations often focus solely on organising activities. However, the author argues that these mechanisms are often not representative of the entire youth interests, but just rubber-stamping decisions brought to their advisory tables by their adult allies and/or managing small projects. Therefore, in this instance, youth are rarely supported to engage in more substantive initiatives like community consultations with the youth using their organisation's services or to engage in advocacy on key social issues affecting the youth in their area, like family poverty, homelessness or racism (NYP, 2020)

2.7.2 Subtly Squelched

Subtly squelched refers to situations where governance structures which do not have a sincere interest in meaningful youth involvement convincingly implement a governance model but pass it off as a meaningful one because there is no consistent way for either internal or external observers to assess their model (Kara, 2007). In this case, the author posits that youth may sense intuitively that something is wrong, but they cannot prove it and are therefore blocked from designing an alternative. It is recognised that in this aspect, youth are particularly vulnerable to being subtly squelched when they are engaging systems of power that can have quite significant impacts on public policy priorities and the allocation of resources (Kara, 2007).

The author connotes that youth advisory bodies are often deprived by the governance structures involved that alter the youth decision-making processes in policies and practices, ensuring that youth do not really be able to influence the decisions or policy direction (Kara, 2007. In this regard, the author argues that the governance structures involved just identify a token youth advisory council as evidence of their commitment to engage youth meaningfully, thereby making youth who complain seem either radical, ungrateful, or irrational (Kara, 2007). In this case, youth are quickly moved out of the system and replaced with less experienced youth structures which are aligned to the governance structures. In this case, the less critical youth structures which are grateful simply to be involved in the process. This type of squelching is quite easy to do, especially as youth initiatives often have such high age-related turnover, and very few youth initiatives effectively incorporate alumni into their processes.

2.7.3 Subconsciously Subverted

In this instance, Kara (2007) posited that the governance structures give the youth freedom and autonomy to organize themselves but fall into the trap of doing what has always done. It is believed that these youth formations are coerced because of their lack of experience in governance. In this way, the governance structures just replicate the mistakes of the past without really understanding why, and often with little or no awareness that they could be aiming higher. This usually happens in situations where there is a lack of knowledge about governance issues where youth unquestioningly replicate the forms and patterns of past youth involvement models that are not highly participatory and that may not address the key priorities of the various youth communities in that community. In

this instance, (Kara, 2007) highlight that it is critical to note that youth who are organised into decision-making bodies should be given access to empowerment trainings and research. This could benefit the youth as it will broaden their understanding of their roles, and of the diverse ways in which these roles can be operationalised in their local contexts.

From these common patterns of experience, (Kara, 2007) elucidate that more needs to be done in situations where the youth are vulnerable to coercion. This could help the youth and their local governance structures to identify what their participation in decision-making could mean for their developmental needs. In this regard, an engagement of the youth in concert with the local governance structures who support them, could be beneficial as more thoughtful processes of research, dialogue and debate could be enhanced.

2.8 Youth structures and local government

The OECD (2022) affirms that subnational levels of government are indispensable partners of the central government in rolling out youth policies and delivering relevant services across countries. It is noted that service delivery outcomes are palpable at the municipal or district level that everyone including the youth interacts with public administration for the first time and most frequently. The interaction of the youth with local authorities locates their frame of reference to how the government performs in its entirety. Similarly, in the South African situation, the local government is constitutionally obligated to provide a context wherein policy implementation is translated to effect social change. Embedded in this social change, is the ability of cooperative governance to provide a crucial measure to promote youth participation in local governance matters as enshrined in chapters 4 and 5 of the Municipal Systems Act of 2000 (Khuzwayo, 2011). Local governments are strategically situated as units of practice for youth participation in public policy, as they can provide mechanisms for policy planning, decision making, organisational development, and programme and policy implementation. In addition, they can offer geographic proximity and other characteristics which could be especially relevant for young people.

The Latin American context offers a conceptualisation of youth participation in local governments. The reason for identifying Latin America is that it provides ana exact context to the South African situation and by extension the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. It is reported that over the past two decades, local governance in Latin America is slowly emerging as a potential new space to promote youth participation (Silva & Cleuren 2009; Berthin 2010; DeLog 2011; Berthin 2012 & UNDP 2013). This is premised on the fact that at the local level, young people can get closer to the public policy itself and able to participate more actively, given the proximity to authorities and decision makers, who are, in an overwhelming majority of cases, competitively elected officials (De Log, 2011).

In this case, literature points out that observable scenarios have provided a glimpse of how politics has ceased to be an effective medium for widespread social changes for youth. Therefore, young people are discouraged from more active participation at the national level of policy governance (Forbrig 2005; Hopenhayn & Moran 2008). Despite this observed development, some authors within the realm of youth participation in local governance, argue that at the local level, emerging governance potential has shown to offer an alternative to youth for greater opportunities and incentives to participate in a smaller spatial scale, and within the reach of more modest aspirations for change (UNDP 2013).

Considering the observations from the Latin America countries, the UNDP (2015) posits that the decentralisation of governance processes in these countries varies in terms of depth and intensity. Despite this variability, results from deconcentrating and delegation efforts made by these countries which have been going on for more than two decades, start to show progress in opening new spaces for broader citizen inclusion and governance including the youth (Herzer & Pirez 1991; DeLog 2011; Berthin 2012). In this regard, Berthin (2012) postulates that it is plausible that when analysing the processes of youth participation at the emerging local level governance, a need to refocus the approach away from the formal aspects is imperative. These formal approaches include civil and political rights which encapsulate the right to vote for one's political party, party membership and affiliation and the existence of civil groups and an acceptance of the dynamics of policy engagement, political expression and social networks (Berthin et al 2011). In South Africa, the interventions of policy interventions in realising the condition of youth development and participation are constituted by statutory bodies of local youth units and the networks of local youth councils within local governments (NYP, 2020-2030). Moreover, in a study done by Barnet et al (2018) on municipal governance, found that institutional formations should enable an environment that embraces robust stakeholder management and sustainability to exhibit linkages between policy intentions and outcomes. In this regard, youth structures participation is conceived as inevitable to ameliorate for the unmanageable gaps that could persist without the youth participation in policy decision-making in local government.

Although public participation including youth participation in local governance has faced a long and arduous history in local decision-making processes Innes & Booher (2004), postulate that recently, it has been observed that there is an overwhelming consensus that public participation is not only central to any participatory democracy, Roberts (2004), but also fundamental to creating inclusive planning processes and ensuring just planning outcomes for all citizens. It is recognised that the public or citizens as a collective is made up of several sub-groups of individuals, and these groups are not necessarily mutually exclusive (David & Buchanan, 2020). Therefore, it is imperative to identify these sub-groups by their geographical settings and needs attached to their settings informed by the citizens themselves (David & Buchanan, 2020). While considering these aspects, David & Buchanan (2020) highlight that recently, there has been an interest in isolating young people as a specific sub-

group and understanding their engagement in planning processes and this has shown some form of inclusivity in local governance.

Looking at how the South African youth benefit from the application of local governance, extraordinarily little is known empirically about the extent to which youth are included in local decision-making Derr & Tarantini (2016) & Frank (2006). This happens despite that local government decision-making context in South Africa is primarily the purview of local governments. Observations from literature illuminate that the South African local governance and planning provide a framework and requirements for local governance planning. However, this typically contain very minimal requirements in public engagement in planning (Reddy, 2016). Whether youth are included in planning in the South African context, therefore, will be explained primarily by local factors. In this regard, an understanding of local decision makers and civic engagement among young people has been observed overtime to have also decreased (Flanagan and Levine, 2010) thus making local governance a one-sided approach.

2.9 Benefits of youth participation in planning and decision-making

Literature notes that there are both procedural and substantive benefits from youth participation in planning and decision-making. Procedurally, research shows that young people are interested in participating in policy-making (Alparone & Rissotto (2001; Horelli (1997); Myrna Margulies & Imre (2007); Ulla (2008) and, when included, enhance the decision-making process by providing perspectives that are honest, broadly representative of their communities (Knowles-Yánez, 2005; Tonucci & Rissotto, 2001), and different from that of the adult population (Derr & Tarantini, 2016). It is recognised that the youth participation in planning has beneficial outcomes on the lives of the youth in many ways. Involving the youth in public policy and governance can be seen in young people's psychosocial development (Passon et al., 2008); civic-mindedness and participation (Checkoway & Richards-Schuster, 2003; Santo, Ferguson & Trippel, 2010); confidence and self-esteem (Hart and Schwab, 1997); and helps develop their collaboration, critical thinking, and leadership skills (Alparone & Rissotto, 2001; Knowles-Yánez,2005). Moreover, these direct procedural benefits to the youth, from the experience of participation, are seen even when their participation does not impact decision-making outcomes Substantively, research shows that young people are very perceptive of their surroundings (Lynch, 1977) and experience the environment more intensely than the adult population (Wood, 2015, p. 141).

Because of these, the youthful population are underrepresented in the policy process Dennis (2006); Sutton & Kemp (2002) they are confined to physical environments that are designed not to offer them their interests (McCray & Mora, 2011). It is therefore recognised that the substantive benefit of participation in policy making, allows the youth to be active agents of their own development, thus playing an active role in shaping the local governance in

a way that is more inclusive, accommodating and supportive of their needs and preferences (Heinrich & Million, 2016; Kackar-Cam & Schmidt, 2014). Despite these benefits, young people are rarely systematically included in local government governance (Knowles-Yánez, 2005).

2.10 Barriers to youth participation in planning and decision-making

The barriers to youth involvement in policy making can be categorised in at least three diverse ways.

2.10.1 Jurisdictional capacity related concerns

There is a consensus that youth participation in planning and decision-making around issues that afflicts them in local government may be hampered by the lack of resources (budget, time and personnel) in local government needed for successful implementation of youth participation initiatives (Irvin & Stansbury, 2004). In addition to resource and budget-related costs, involving youth in local government planning and policy making might extend the timeline of the policymaking process. Time as a cost, again, has been raised as a concern with public participation at large (Irvin & Stansbury, 2004). The creation of opportunities for diverse youth participation techniques requires adequate personnel to ensure that youth are truly included and receive both formal and informal support (Checkoway, Allison & Montoya, 2005). Further, increasing youth participation and development efforts often requires education and training for service providers, planners, elected officials, communities, and the youth themselves (Cele and & der Burgt, 2015; Cushing, 2016).

2.10.2 Concerns about the capacity of the youth

In many respects of governance, youth are often considered less adequate than adults because they have less life experience (Passon et al., 2008). This is informed by the assumption that youth lack the skills and knowledge to meaningfully participate in governance structures (Cele & van der Burgt, 2015; Passon et al., 2008). In many of the substantive fields such as planning, decision-making and governance which are associated with local government require technical knowledge (Alparone & Rissotto, 2001; David & Buchanan, 2015). Therefore, there might be concerns that youth would have to surmount significant information and training barriers to actively participate in policy making.

For example, (Roberts, 2004) put to light that some of these issues are not unique to youth as there have been concerns that the complexity associated with technical aspects of public policy might be insurmountable to the public in local government. In this regard, Cele & van der Burgt (2015) suggest that there is a concerted view that

adults regard the youth as a vulnerable population who should be planned for because of their incompetence. Other concerns may include a perceived lack of interest from youth (Frank, 2006) and overall negative perceptions of the youth themselves (Wood, 2015).

2.10.3 Structural concerns

Literature denotes that structural concerns for youth inclusion in planning and decision-making are those that are ingrained in existing planning organisations, processes, and institutions (Heinrich and Million, 2016). Local government governance structures might attribute little practical value to including youth in planning (Backlund et al 2014 (Driskell, 2002). In this regard, youth participation might be believed to be not fit for purpose within the existing institutional setting, its plans, policies, and frameworks (Cele & van der Burgt, 2015). Similar arguments have been made about public participation generally that public participation is inefficient, given the complexity of bureaucracy. In this attempt, participation is believed that it could disrupt the stability of the system and that the structure of representative democracy already allows for participation (Roberts, 2004).

Further, the governance research at a local level might be predisposed to viewing youth as a source of information or a problem to solve, rather than a participating stakeholder group (Passon et al., 2008, p. 76). Moreover, the criticism of government is that there is inertia and resistance to involving the public, and especially to involving the public throughout the policy making process (Cele & van der Burgt, 2015). More so, difficulty in involving the youth in decision-making is what (Smith, 1973, p. 280) describes, “the inherent limitation of participatory planning is that planning decisions made in the present may eliminate options and constrain societal processes in the future if future participants are excluded from the planning process”. It is argued that given this indictment, can anything be gleaned empirically about the extent to which youth participation is institutionalized in local planning efforts and the factors that play a role in this institutionalisation (Wood, 2015).

2.11 What influences the institutionalisation of youth participation in planning and decision-making

The literature on governance suggest that decision makers are neither social dupes who are completely bound by the context within which they operate, nor free-floating individuals who operate in a vacuum (Loesch, 2019). There are rather actors who operate in policy or action where several variables contextual and personal that impact the outcome of the decision-making process (Howlett, 2007). In this regard, Easton (2001) posit that there are at least three categories of variables that can impact the institutionalisation of youth participation in the decision-making environment, institutions, and actor level attributes. The decision-making environment constitutes the

external pressures on decision makers and could refer to several variables such as an area's socioeconomic conditions, fiscal capacity, and natural conditions (Loesch, 2019).

The local government governance sphere comprises of the organisational structure, rules, operating procedures, norms, conventions, and networks within which decision-makers operate. In this policy and decision-making level, attributes such as decision makers 'perceptions, attitudes, preferences, and experiences could also impact policy action (van Rensburg, 2023). The following paragraphs provides the theoretical justifications for the key environmental, institutional, and actor attribute variables as espoused by (David & Buchanan, 2020).

2.11.1 Decision-making environment

The decision-making environment provides the context and serves as the 'input' for decision-making. It provides resources, exerts pressures, and places demands on decision-makers (David & Buchanan, 2020). The authors go on to say that when decisions are made, "this decision-making environment further absorbs the policy outputs and, through feedback, loops the successes and failures of the policy outputs back into the decision-making system." Therefore, the decision to institutionalise youth participation in the decision-making processes, focus on two key variables that capture this decision-making environment which is policy capacity and stakeholder support (David & Buchanan, 2020).

The authors argue that "capacity in the public policy context can be broadly defined as the ability of government to survey the environment, and accumulate knowledge and resources for making intelligent decisions, setting strategic priorities, and weighing policy alternatives." It is further argued by Wu et al (2015 p. 166) that "more narrowly, and from implementation and citizen engagement perspectives, capacity can be defined as the ability of government to implement preferred choices of action "and manage communications and stakeholder processes". Considering the interests of scholars to the concept of capacity, they argue that this concept relates to bureaucratic actors such as personnel capacity and their consequent role in policy interventions and change (Mukherjee et al., 2021).

2.12 Youth participation, empowerment and policy implementation

Youth participation in policy and service delivery is implicit to achieving equal developmental outcomes. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) report on the Guidance on Enhancing Youth Participation in East and Southern Africa (2018) has reported that inherent in youth participation in policy decision-making are the strong guarantees of their civil rights and liberties such as access to information, freedom of speech and expression and

freedom of association and assembly. Coherently, the (OECD, 2020) notes that this is in response to the human rights approach envisaged in the goal 10 and 16 of the SDGs agenda 2030. These goals have set a pathway for ensuring that adolescents and youth are provided with opportunities to participate in decision-making processes at all levels that have an impact on their lives and their well-being by 2030.

However, UN (2019) notes that youth participation in critical policy development is normally constrained by persisting implementation gaps and identified the inconsistent political support and funding mechanisms, lack of capacity and relevance of the institutional frameworks, lack of coordination mechanisms and inadequacy of youth groups and networks, including participation and roles of youth organisations as having setbacks on the adequate implementation of youth centred policies. Consistently, the UN (2019) report acknowledge that these persistent implementation gaps result in inefficiencies in translating policy into action. Moreover, the UN postulate that with youth development work being perceived as idealistic, the likelihood of this resulting in measurable impacts remains low.

Moreover, there is accumulating evidence that youth benefit when given the opportunity to make, and act on, decisions for the common good in youth organisations and programmes (Zeldin et al, 2003). For example, the American Youth Policy Forum (1999, p. iv) reveals that after synthesising over eighteen (18) evaluations studies of effective youth programmes, hold the view that what came about from the study was a common aspect that attributes youth not only receiving services, but provide them. In this way, the change from participants into over eighteen, from being cared for, into key resources for their communities. This change has been observed to have positive developmental outcomes on the youth as it helped to build youth resilience and have protective factors in powerful ways (Zeldin et al., 2003). Other studies of youth development programmes have shown the following to be common across effective youth programmes implementation. This includes creating an opportunity for self-efficacy development and productively contribute to others. Also, this creates opportunities for the youth to participate actively in challenges, and to produce a recognisable programme or achievement (Catalano et al (1998); Roth (1998). Moreover, Hattie et al (997) conclude from their meta-analysis of adventure programmes that the positive effects on youth development stem from the experience of actively participating in challenging group problem-solving and decision-making situations. For example, studies from Chile regarding youth developmental programmes highlight that from the observations, it was possible to identify the dominant outcome as a positive feeling that these youth programmes have contributed (Prieto, 2001, p. 88).

2.13 Youth empowerment models, policies and programmes

Youth empowerment strategies are tied to youth policy mainstreaming. Observations from literature highlight that most theoretical models on youth empowerment proposed in the academic literature incorporate the concept of positive youth development. This is because youth are regarded as future leaders which any country can leverage on for development. The works of Jennings et al (2008) provide a grounding on which the models of youth empowerment can be discerned. What is more critical in these models is that all of them view youth as equally important as other groups of citizens. Although the positive youth development is premised on the assumptions that youth are individuals whose developmental aspirations are constrained by the actions of the governance structures, (Bello, 2011) argues that this offers a measurement of the degree of youth participation in local governance.

While Kim et al (1998), identify theories of social control, learning and expectations that foster participation in community projects, this does not offer a conceptualisation for participatory governance. This is because this model fails to sufficiently capture the efforts made by young people to resist oppression and create social change (Pearrow et al., 2009). Alternatively, (Travis and Bowman, 2012) offer that empowered youth is the opposite of oppressed youth, therefore, the identification of models that have elements of emancipatory power is essential as empowered young people.do not identify themselves as the victims of adversities but have the potential to obtain equal access to social resources. In this case, the emancipative dimension of empowerment entails that at the same time, creating and supporting those conditions that lead to young people being able to act in their own name and on their own terms instead of being controlled by others is paramount.

To this end, the UN (2003) recognises that empowered young people are rights bearers, decision-makers, and social actors with potential to participate fully in their own and their community's development' (UN Commission on Human Rights Safety, 2003, p. 201). Putting these assumptions of youth empowerment into practice is the responsibility of structures, systems and processes that mainstream youth policies in the context where it is applied. Moreover, Jennings et al (2012) argue that from the aforesaid developments, the engagements should result in critical reflection on societal forces and power relations, and active community participation, leading to change in sociopolitical processes, structures, and norms that help to nurture the youth to active and productive citizens.

2.14 Experiences of the South African Metropolitan Municipalities in mainstreaming youth policy

Metropolitan municipalities in South Africa have shown varying experiences with mainstreaming the National Youth Policy (NYP). While some have shown a greater commitment through the establishment of youth development policies and structures, others face challenges related to political will, capacity, and resource allocation (Madumo, 2015). Some municipalities have successfully implemented programmes focused on

economic empowerment and skills development, but there are also concerns about the holistic nature of these programs and the need for more comprehensive approaches (Sebola, 2015). The municipal governance in South Africa faces numerous obstacles. Despite these challenges, some municipalities have attempted to place greater emphasis on the mainstreaming of youth policy looking at economic development (Sebola, 2015). Despite these acknowledgments, numerous municipalities in South Africa face difficulties in putting in place the structures, systems and processes to mainstream the youth policy.

Moreover, Sebola (2015) indicates that corruption and poor management are the main issues contributing to these challenges. Relevantly, Mbandlwa et al. (2020) suggest that contextual factors such as varying community expectations and the challenges inform the developmental needs of the youth and therefore, youth policy mainstreaming should focus on this. However, Mbandlwa et al (2020) posit that evidence from municipalities have shown that lack of proper consultations makes it difficult for municipalities to accept challenges faced by the citizenry. According to Mbandlwa et al. (2020), the widespread problem of insufficient institutional competence and resource allocation makes it difficult for the structures in South Africa to accomplish municipal service delivery. As it has been observed, the incapacity of municipal officials frequently results in inefficient strategic decision-making, project management, and service provision oversight (Mahlalela, 2019; Chili, Akbar, Nyika & Mbonye, 2023).

Moreover, Mbandlwa, Dorasamy & Fagbadebo (2020) suggest that experiences of South African municipalities relate to how systems and processes are implemented to mainstream youth developmental policies. This is because of ineffective governance structures which hinders on the implementation of service delivery initiatives (Masuku & Jili (2019). Furthermore, Mamokhere, Mabunda & Chauke (2024) espouse that municipal youth developmental strategies are hindered by various challenges, such as corruption, mismanagement, and political interference. These authors reverberate that corruption undermines public trust and efficient resource allocation, leading to socioeconomic disparities among the youth population.

2.14 Chapter Summary

This chapter has discussed the concept of youth from various perspectives including the South African perspective. Also, the mainstreaming of the youth policy from the global context and impediments thereof were discussed to give a background on how the NYP implementation in the City of Ekurhuleni could face. The discussions in the literature review highlight crucial factors that need to be considered when implementing youth policies. This includes the ways in which some countries in the global North and South have attempted to implement the youth policies. This further informs the study purpose to explore and evaluate the implementation of the NYP in the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. The following chapter discussed the theoretical model that guided the study.

CHAPTER THREE

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Introduction

Youth empowerment is critical for the well-being of the youth and contributes to the overall productivity of the nation or the country. To ensure that the youth are empowered, Cahill & Davdand (2018) postulate that youth participation in decision-making processes and understanding systems of governance is held to be a marker of quality within interventions involving young people. The authors further illuminate that inherent in youth participation in policy processes are the promotion of social justice, a platform for positive development, a medium for active citizenry, a human right, and a strategy for nation-building. As the study wished to answer how the structures, systems and processes are used to implement the mainstreaming of the National Youth Policy (NYP) in the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE), it is therefore worthwhile for the study to recognise the strengths of the Social Systems Theory (SST) to guide the study to achieve its purpose. This was influenced by the recognition that the mainstreaming of the NYP is a complex undertaking involving different social actors in a social setting. Therefore, the use of the SST was relevant to disentangle the complexities that are within the policy implementation framework especially when considering how the youthful populations are constantly excluded from taking decision on issues that affect them.

3.2 Social Systems Theory

The social systems theory sees developmental problems as a societal problem that needs a holistic intervention from all sides of governance. It assumes that "the whole is more than the sum of its parts" (Anfara & Mertz, 2006:96). This theory was developed mainly to respond to the need for different disciplines to analyse the complex interactive situations in which various system consists of smaller elements (local governance) or subsystems and larger suprasystems, (national and international policies) that impinge upon the life of an individual (Shaffer & Kipp, 2009 :430). The complexity of these systems and how they interact with each other to give a meaningful outcome must be disentangled. In this context, the governance of the NYP as a development strategy for the youth is seen as a product of interaction between the individual and various other systems of which an individual may be or may not be an active participant. The role played by these systems in shaping an individual behaviour must be scrutinised and analysed as means towards ensuring adaptive process of reorganisation and growth.

Of significance, the role played by the society in the development process should equally be given attention (Benson, 2002; Shaffer & Kipp, 2009; Garfat, 2003; Lerner et al., 2002:13). As this theory considers social systems

as equally important in coming with ways to ensure that all societal members develop seamlessly, considerations of an individual as an important organism and a member of society is emphasised because an interaction between the individual and his or her situation or environment is mutually exclusive (Coulshed and Orme, 2006; Lerner et al., 2002). When this theory is applied to the field of governance in relation to the NYP at local level, it disentangles the complexity with which the youth at local level interacts with the local governance systems and how they struggle to influence the outcomes of these interactions at an individual level to develop positively or negatively (Benson, 2002; Lerner et al., 2002).

Literature agrees that the effort to change the developmental outcomes of the youth depend on the participation of the youth in decision-making about the issues that affects them. This will consequently be done better if the structures, systems and processes of local governance allows them to participate. As governance itself is a complex endeavour between the state and non-state actors, young people are constantly caught up in this complexity. In support of this view, Garfat (2003, p.71) posited that, "when working with youth on particular developmental trajectory, often youth are directed to say what it is already agreed upon by the governance structures and this leads to the youth to get lost inside the immediate dynamics and ignore the much more powerful and pervasive influences that are really within their sphere of ability." This means that when the youth structures act as a representative body of the entire youthful population in a particular setting, identify the causal factors that hinder or advance their developmental aspirations, should avoid the greater likelihood of focusing on influences that are on the surface as these could probably be symptoms of the greater exclusion on policy governance and decision making. In this case, the use of the SST empowers the youth to focus on the root causes of the conditions that take into consideration the full context of young people's lives (Wheeler, 2000).

Since the SST considers the social system as a context where youth developmental problems are manufactured, and where youth are part of various systems (society and local governance, the NYP implementation) that are dynamically connected to the environment of which they are part of (Anfara and Mertz, 2006), the theory proposes that the disentanglement of these binding structures is imperative. In this regard, Davies, 2004, p. 380) add that the connectedness of these systems directly impacts the youth to the extremes as each of these systems is also interacting with others and being influenced by them in a cyclical way (Shaffer and Kipp, 2009, p. 431). Therefore, to understand how this affect the youth from not benefitting from the NYP, effort to change should be made to understand how the development of the structures, systems and processes by the CoE is constrained by the political systems that govern the municipality in which young people are caught up (Davies, 2004; Lerner et al., 2002).

In as much as this is important to understand how the developmental challenges experienced by the youth, the complexities of various contributing influences on personal behaviour and development should equally be studied and clearly understood. Various authors identified the following types of personal developmental systems (Shaffer and Kipp, 2009, pp. 431- 433; Garfat, 2003, p.71; Lerner et al., 2002, p. 13):

Intrapersonal system – this refers to a system within an individual person and how he/she views reality in terms of socialisation. This is influenced by the attitude, perception, emotion, cognitive, competencies and skills that one must deal with the complexities of socialisation in local governance matters. These factors should be developed within the social context and through opportunities for socialisation in policy matters. This requires the skills on the part of the individual to regulate the relations for development to occur.

Interpersonal or micro or sociocultural systems - refer to system/s between an individual and small other system, such as municipal ward committees, civic organisations, NGOs, churches, political imbizos in the municipal level. This involves patterns of activities, roles, interpersonal relations which an individual, can participate and have his/her voice heard within these systems. The participation in these municipal governance forums emerge through constant exposure to informal interactions and are reinforced by a larger network of community institutions and have an impact on the individual's behaviour and inclusion in decision-making relevantly, developmental systems stress the need to strengthen linkages between developing individuals and their changing family and community settings, hence Lerner et al., (2002. p. 15) mentioned the significance of involving a young person in healthy, positive relations with these systems to lead to positive development.

Mesosystems - refer to interrelations between two or more systems such as educational and career opportunities, local political environments, public policy and economic systems. These factors encourage an individual to become an actor within the community and consequently being of value and useful within it. The presence or lack of these factors in the environment within which an individual lives, affect the way they turn out to be.

Socioeconomic or macro systems – This entail entails a broad system within which an individual has no control over. These are external factors that include the economic conditions, social conditions, political changes, national issues, and environmental concerns that are so complex for an individual and have an impact on the well-being of young people. Within these external factors, youth are constrained to develop because of the priorities set out by various governance structures with no relevance to the youth developmental needs. For SST, the proposal for the disentanglement of these youth developmental challenges is seen from multiple angles. For example, the socioeconomic background of an individual youth may influence the availability of opportunities for education and in turn affect the employability of that individual. Therefore, the local governance structures should be able to develop structures, systems and processes to mainstream the NYP to benefit the youth irrespective of the social structure which youth may belong to in terms of development.

It has been recognised within the realm of governance that people as belonging to a social structure have been linked to these systems for survival and the state of these systems affects and influences the development of an individual (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2001, p. 15). It is, therefore, critical that local governance structures foster positive relations among the communities to meet the developmental needs of the youth by engaging them in decision-making. The SST recognise that the use of governance as a developmental tool permeates the

developmental agenda espoused in the NYP. According to Lerner et al. (2002, p. 22) such development enables young people to become adults who would ideally, contribute to self and context in a way that maintains and perpetuates the social order and advances social justice.

From the above analysis, all systems, from small to broader ones, have an influence on a person's developmental outcomes. Changes that effected in one part of the system is likely to have an effect on the other parts (Jones & Pritchard, 1980), hence these systems, use feedback loops to identify and respond to environmental changes and to maintain organisation of their parts when they constantly change to ensure adaptation (Chess and Norlin, 1991; Shaffer & Kipp, 2009). The challenge for the youth would be for the structures and systems of governance to support them to benefit from the aspirations of the NYP and allows the youth to have input in the decision-making on issues that affects them directly to ensure that development is carried out seamlessly (Benson & Pittman, 2001; Chess & Norlin, 1991).

This theory allows for broader inclusion of the contributions by various sectors as cited by (Benson and Pittman, 2001) that youth development should be viewed as an investment whereby precedence is given to the interrelated role of different sectors in the wider community. Moreover, (Turner, 1986, p. 519) postulated that to do this, "programmes, organisations, systems and sectors of communities should be mobilised to build development strengths in order to promote the health and well-being of young people since the onus for change is not on the client system alone". The theory considers takes the explicit context of the youth as an explanatory context where important feedback can be drawn by recognising that people grow up in several interconnecting and overlapping systems, and that they are integral parts of their social networks (Wheeler, 2000, p.11).

Considering this, Turner (1986) highlighted the need for development and maintenance of governance systems to fulfil the human developmental outcomes of the youth from multiple perspectives. This theory is thus relevant to the study as it gives an understanding the challenges that are immanent in local governance structures that constantly gives way to the developmental quagmire which the youth of the CoE find themselves in. Its use is equally important to understand issues that constrains the municipality to come with developmental strategies from multiple angles.

The researcher is therefore of the opinion that this approach can be effectively utilised in local governance to identify and engage various structures, systems to understand the processes engaged on to allow the youthful population to engage themselves in local governance and decision-making on the issues that affects them gainfully. Moreover, the relevance of using this theory when dealing with young people cannot be ignored, especially since there is a need for collaboration across various systems that have common purpose of building the developmental strengths of young people (Lerner et al., 2002)

3.3 Chapter summary

The chapter has discussed the Social Systems Theory (SST) and implications on youth inclusion in local governance. This concludes that it is imperative to consider various contributory factors to youth exclusion in decision-making in the local government on issues that involves them. The theory proposes that it is worthwhile that when conceptualising strategies to implement the mainstreaming of the National Youth Policy (NYP) by the structures, considerations for the systems and processes within the social context should be analysed. This include an analysis of the individual relationship with the contextual factors such as the local governance structures which are complex in nature. Also, the chapter discussed SST in relation to the complex nature of the local governance system which constrains the youth from participating in local governance structures and therefore, comes with ways on how to disentangle these challenges and complexities in the mainstreaming of the NYP. The chapter concludes that meaningful engagements that are engaged from multiple angles with the youth, produce responsible citizenry among the youth by empowering them with opportunities for knowledge production and skills that are needed for the society to develop. The following chapter discusses the methodology used to collect data.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

This section covers the methodology that was used to guide the collection of data to inform the objectives of the study. This is a scientific way that helped the researcher to understand how the NYP is implemented in the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality to benefit the youth within its catchment areas identified by the study. While conducting this study in relation to the aspects of youth policy governance, the qualitative methodology as the researcher identified it helped the researcher methodology to collect subjective responses as the phenomenon of the NYP governance affects youth in diverse ways which is not a homogeneous endeavour. Therefore, subjective responses allowed the researcher to create references on the specific phenomenon of interest which the researcher was interested in understanding.

4.1.1 Research Paradigm

Paradigms have their foundational meaning in Thomas Kuhn view who was the first philosopher to use the word paradigm to mean a philosophical way of thinking Kivunja *et al.,* (2017). In governance, paradigms help to describe the world of human behaviour and how society views reality. Paradigm involves the description of the interactions of human beings within any society (Dunn, 2023). These are broad viewpoints or perspectives that permit social scientists to have a wide range of tools to describe society and then build hypotheses and theories. Therefore, paradigms cannot be proven or disproved, but they lead to the development of theories which can be scientifically proven.

4.1.1.1 Interpretivism

The theoretical lens that guided the study was encapsulated within the realm of Social System Theory. This approach views human behaviour as governed and constrained to an exceptionally considerable extent by the complexity of the social system. In subjectivism, society is viewed as far from being the products of a social system, human beings as individuals are creative agents who shape the meaning of actions around them. In interpretive governance, the primary concern lies with understanding “how individuals and groups create, find meaning in, and experience society, rather than in how society affects them” (O’Donnell, 1997:6). Therefore, to

understand the complexity of the NYP implementation from the Critical Youth Theory perspective, a researcher's concern is on understanding the complex social actions of social actors and how these actions benefit the targeted individuals through policy governance. To understand these actions, the researcher must study the "intentional meanings" behind them, (Kivunja et al., 2017, p. 26). Therefore, it becomes imperative for a qualitative researcher to regard the context and an individual interpretation of the social phenomenon when evaluating how the governance actions of individuals affect the beneficiaries of the system or policies.

4.2 Study Design

The study design refers to the overall strategy used to conduct research, and it helps to define a succinct and logical plan to tackle established research question(s) through the collection, interpretation, analysis, and discussion of data (Thakur, 2021). The design of the study was case study. This design allowed the researcher to gain deeper exploration and description of the phenomenon to understand how the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality implement the NYP and how the youth benefit from its implementation. This also allowed the study to explore a broad-ranging, purposive, systematic, prearranged undertaking which is designed to maximise the discovery of generalizations leading to description and understanding of an area of social life (Stebbins, 2001).

4.3 Data collection and tools

This study used dual data collection method and tools to help enhance the credibility of the study as the study identified the policy implementers at the municipal level and the beneficiaries of the NYP implementation to get varying perspectives on the issue of inclusive governance at local governance level. In this regard, the study used individual in-depth semi-structured interviews to collect data on policy implementers at municipal level which according to (Neuman, 2014) have a potential to unearth quality data and are normally conducted face to face with a researcher probing for answers and the participant giving his or her own account of the phenomenon at hand. On the other hand, the researcher conducted an online qualitative survey questionnaire that was employed to collect data from the youth residing in the CoE who had insider knowledge about how they benefitted from the mainstreaming of the NYP by the CoE. The idea to use qualitative survey was informed by its ability to reach a wide variety of individuals with the same attributes which the study wished to evaluate and can capture a variety of responses to enhance the credibility of the study. The purpose for utilising this form of data collection tool is cheap to employ (Busetto, Wick & Businger, 2020).

4.4 Sampling Criteria and Procedure

The study used the expert sampling and critical case sampling to purposefully select the sample from a diverse range of cases relevant for the study. Unlike the homogeneous sampling method, these sampling methods allowed the researcher to select variables that are incredibly different from each other to have truly diverse responses and research outcomes (Lopez & Whitehead, 2022). In this case, the study selected municipal officials who are tasked with mainstreaming the NYP in the CoE and youth representatives from each ward within the CoE who are tasked with ensuring that the youth of the CoE enjoy the benefits of the NYP. The participants were selected purposefully with the idea that they are knowledgeable about how the NYP is implemented within the CoE.

All the selected participants served as the units of analysis where the researcher deduced meaningful insights on how the structures, systems and processes mainstream the NYP policy in the CoE and how the benefits derived from the policy is translated to human development outcomes. Moreover, Maxwell (2013) suggests that case studies normally select small samples as the criteria is to gain deeper insights into the phenomenon through engaging those who have lived experience. In line with this suggestion, the study identified three managers of the CoE whose function is to ensure that the key structures, structures, and processes are implemented for the mainstreaming of the NYP in the CoE and twenty youth representatives from each ward consisting of Katlehong, Tokoza, Bedfordview, Duduza and Vosloorus to relay deeper insights on how the implementation of the NYP benefits the intended beneficiaries.

4.4.1 Limitations, Feasibility and Positionality

The study anticipated that limitations would result from firstly, technical reasons, that is, securing permissions from the research site that is certainly governed by bureaucratic protocols. However, the plan entails seeking for such timeously and doing constant follow ups. Secondly, some limitations might arise from administrative reasons, that is, securing a favourable response rate from potential participants that could also be affected by the geographical location of the identified areas of focus areas within the CoE. However, the researcher will devise strategies of using established networks within the CoE databases to reach to relevant representatives of political party's officials through emails and telephone calls to assist in identifying participants within their respective wards.

The conduction of the study was feasible as the researcher was knowledgeable about the area and has established networks to recruit participants. Also, the researcher was an experienced interviewer, therefore, this experience and capacities enabled the researcher to be self-reliant on interviewing participants. As the researcher is not employed by the CoE, her position in one of the Chapter nine institutions did not pose any challenges to

participation by the identified participants or sway the participants narratives to a predetermined outcome that the researcher would like to arrive at, but the findings of the study were informed by the participants perceptions drawn during data collection and analysis.

4.5 Process of analysis

Qualitative case studies stress on collecting rich dense data from the identified population of interest using interviews where an audio-recorder is normally used as data recording tool. The use of the audio-recorder allowed the researcher to record the interview, and the researcher was able to transcribe raw data after the interview has been concluded as suggested by (Eugene & Lynn, 2017). This allowed for incorporating of observational notes, non-verbal cues, and context descriptions from the participants lived experiences and allowed the researcher to assess the reasoning flowing from narratives drawn from participants perceptions on how the CoE implemented the NYP to benefit the youth within its jurisdiction. This helped the researcher to identify similarities of events as narrated. Thereafter, the researcher coded the data an assign numbers to the participants narratives in the interest of promoting anonymity and confidentiality as the study evaluated a sensitive topic (Saunders, Kitzinger and Kitzinger, 2015 p.2).

After assigning codes, the researcher categorised the data according to its relatedness and develop themes that will serve as analysis. Data from the qualitative survey questionnaire followed the same pattern as in the in-depth individual interviews. The researcher read the transcripts and reread them with idea to identify related data and classify them into patterns. Moreover, as themes are identified, the researcher used inductive reasoning when considering the fit of the data to the themes as suggested by Creswell (2013). The data analysis was be guided by the process of transcription, coding and development of themes (Sutton & Austin, 2015).

The following five steps were followed during data analysis and interpretation of responses from survey questionnaires suggested by (Sutton & Austin, 2015):

(a) Transcribing of raw data
(b) Organising and preparing data
(c) Reading all the data
(d) Interrelating themes
(e) Data synthesis.

Step one: Transcribing of raw data

As Sutton & Austin (2015) have suggested that data collection and analysis is informed by data saturation, the researcher followed this suggestion during data collection, and this informed how the researcher arranged and produced all the information for analysis. The transcribed information from the qualitative survey responses collected through google forms, catalogued all the information expressed by the participants during an online qualitative survey that was conducted within the City of Ekurhuleni. This allowed the researcher to have no difficulty in transcribing the data and giving meaning to the participants' responses as the researcher was fluent with the diverse languages spoken in the area.

Step two: Organising and preparing data

Organising and preparation of data requires reading all the data. The researcher followed this trajectory, and this helped in drawing meaningful pieces of information that was pursued in the following interviews. In this way, the researcher was encouraged to probe for more information until saturation was reached. After data saturation, the researcher transcribed all the data, then read and re-read, organised and prepared the data according to the reflection which the data conveyed, bearing in mind the ideas and credibility of the data as expressed by the participants.

Step three: Reading through the data

Coding requires the researcher to process and identify topics, issues, similarities, and differences that are revealed by the participants (Sutton and Austin, 2015). This enabled the researcher to code the participants narratives and be able to understand the global view of how the NYP implementation affect each participant. This was done by hand on a hard copy of the transcript by making notes in the margin highlighting the sections of the text for ease of reference. After all this, the researcher transcribed the interviews and notes were read and reread and assessed for accuracy against the recordings as suggested by (Rossman & Rallis, 2012). The researcher took all the data gathered during data collection, fragmented sentences into themes and labelled those categories with a letter to enhance anonymity.

Step four: Interrelating themes

The identified themes were advanced to portray a representative meaning of the participants' narratives and responses given in confidence during qualitative semi-structured interviews and survey interviews. These themes were organised in a way to convey the chronology of events during an analysis of the findings. The researcher

integrated interrelated themes to form a uniform expression responded to by the participants. The process of data synthesis is discussed in the following paragraph.

Step five: Data synthesis

(Creswell, 2014) asserted that the last step in data analysis in the qualitative paradigm is data synthesis. (Sutton and Austin, 2015) further argued that in this phase the participants' narratives can be distilled, summarised, and presented in a manner that truly reflects the meaningful narratives of the CoE NYP implementers and the youth residing within the identified sites in the CoE.

4.6 Ethical considerations

The researcher observed the Belmont Report stipulations when conducting the study as suggested by (MacMillan, 2014). The researcher ensured that before the study could commence, the ethical clearance from the University of the Witwatersrand Higher Degrees Committee and permission to conduct the study from the CoE was sought and obtained. The commencement of the interviews for both semi-structured and qualitative survey interviews was informed by the disclosure to the participants that the information gathered through this study will not be used against them by the CoE in any manner. Prospective participants were given chance to consent to participate in this study and assurance that their responses will be treated with utmost confidentiality, and that no one will have access to the study information except for the University of the Witwatersrand was ensured. The following steps were followed to ensure that the study meets the criteria of ethical practices when conducting studies that involve human participants and dealing with a sensitive issue.

4.6.1 Right to self-determination

As explained by (Gray, Grove and Sutherland, 2017 p. 273), right to self-determination is grounded on the ethical principle of respect for persons and this requires the researcher to hold on to this principle because human-beings are rational thinkers, and that they should be treated as independent agents who have the freedom to choose their lives without manipulation. Therefore, this the researcher to treat every study participant as an autonomous agent and this informed the behaviour of the researcher when conducting this study. As the study and its purpose allowed for the participants to elect to participate voluntarily in the study, the researcher afforded each participant the right to cancel their participation from the study at any given point with no penalties as suggested by (Fry, Veatch and

Taylor C ,2011). Moreover, the (U.S. DHHS, 2009) affirms that conducting studies in an ethical manner calls for the recognition of research participants' right to self-determination and therefore, participants with diminished autonomy were afforded additional cover during the conduct of the study. To do this, the study recognised the prevention of the study participants right to self- determination. This was done by ensuring that the researcher refrain from coercing participants to participate in the study without giving them apparent reasons on why they should participate because this may constitute infringement on the participants rights. (Gray, Grove and Sutherland, 2017 p. 274).

4.6.2 Right to anonymity and confidentiality

The (American Psychology Association, 2010; Fry et al., 2011) provide grounds on which the researcher can enhance the privacy of individual participants. In this regard, the study participants should be given an opportunity to consent to participate in the study and remain anonymous and that all data collected be kept confidential. To achieve this, the researcher ensured that the participants' responses were not associated with their identity, but only numbers were attached to the corresponding responses. In addition, the researcher ensured that the confidentiality of the participants' data given in confidence by participants were kept confidential and not shared with any person who was not involved in the study as suggested by (Shamoo and Resnick, 2015) when they postulate that information that is shared in confidence, the researcher should maintain confidentiality and researcher as professionals, have a duty to maintain confidentiality consistent with their profession's code of ethics.

4.6.3 Right to protection from discomfort and harm

Studies conducted with human participants involved may raise ethical dilemmas. In this regard, (Gray, Grove and Sutherland, 2017 p. 290) suggest that the researcher must in all respects promote participants' right to protection from discomfort and harm. This is grounded on the ethical principle of beneficence, which hold on to the fact that researchers should do good by the participants and refrain from doing any harm to the participants. In this study, the researcher conducted this study protecting participants from discomfort by balancing the benefits in comparison with harm as suggested by (Reynolds, 1979). Moreover, as suggested by (Gary, Grove and Sutherland, 2017), the researcher ensured that discomfort and harm that include the physiological, emotional, social, or economic were avoided. To do this, the researcher ensured that the study participants were treated as equals in relation to the phenomenon studied and questions that the study asked did not invoke feelings of discomfort and were relevant to the purpose of the study.

4.6.4 Right to privacy

As it has propounded earlier that studies conducted with human participants as source of data to inform the purpose of the study requires that the researcher always ensures the privacy of participants, (Peter, 2015) allude that this requires an understanding by the researcher to regard each participant as an individual who has right to be free from intrusion and interference by others. As qualitative inquiries go deeper into participants' personal, sacred places, physical privacy, participants' right to determine the time, extent, and general circumstances under which their information is shared with or withheld from others is important for the researcher. Therefore, this becomes imperative for the researcher to ensure that participants' attitudes, beliefs, behaviours, opinions, and records along with their associational privacy is protected when conducting studies.

It is in this line that researcher ensured that the participants privacy was protected when conducting this study with the idea that the data collection methods were not varied but responses varied to protect subjects' privacy and data were gathered from participants after written consent and the purpose of the study was addressed to them. Participants were also ensured that they have a right to access to records at any given time and their data will not be shared with any person who was not involved in the study as suggested by (Pritts, 2008).

4.6.5 Fair selection of Participants

Participants selection was conducted in manner that promotes inclusiveness and fairness to ensure that the risks and benefits of the study are distributed evenly as suggested by (Shamoo & Resnick, 2015). The researcher selected the study participants purposefully regarding the inclusion and exclusion criteria informed by the purpose of the study. To ensure this, the researcher was not gender biased when selecting participants but made sure that the participants cohort was representative of all genders from the CoE.

4.6.6 Accessing informed consent

Accessing consent from participants of human nature is crucial for the conduct of ethical research internationally (CIOMS-WHO, 2009). Concurrently, (Gray, Grove and Sutherland, 2017) stress that informing participants is essential in researching as it allows the conversation between the researcher and participants with a purpose to elicit more information on the identified phenomenon under study. As it is, this requires an agreement, after assimilating essential information, to participate in a study as a subject. In this study, the researcher ensured that participants were informed about why they should participate in the study as stipulated in the (Nuremberg Code, 1949 p. 181).

4.7 Validity, reliability, and dependability

The principles of qualitative research that ensures trustworthiness of data are applied as a measure of ensuring transferability and dependability of data therefore the findings of the study as suggested by (Lincoln & Guba, 1995). In terms of ensuring validity various triangulation techniques in collecting data were used. The study followed the suggestions by (Lincoln and Guba, 1995) which entails the following steps in ensuring the credibility of the study findings.

4.7.1 Credibility

(Bryman, 2012 p. 433) stressed the argument that it is the feasibility or credibility of the account that a researcher arrives at that determines the acceptability of the study findings to others. In line with this position, (Bryman, 2012) proposes that the establishment of the credibility of findings entails both ensuring that research is carried out according to the canons of good practice and submitting research findings to the members of the social world who were studied for confirmation that the investigator has correctly understood that social world. (Bryman, 2012) alludes that respondent validation calls for the researcher to "provide the people on whom he or she has researched with an account of his or her findings and this exercise aims to seek corroboration or otherwise of the account that the researcher has arrived at.

To enable the credibility of the study, the researcher employed purposeful sampling to collect information-rich data as is the case in qualitative case studies and data were managed and analysed correctly and systematically as suggested by (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). In addition, the researcher ensured that the research questions were appropriate for the case study design, and the questions were substantiated to allow for a variety of responses to achieve the purpose of the study. Moreover, the researcher ensured a prolonged engagement with the policy implementers at CoE and engaged with the identified youth formations within the identified sites in the CoE.to familiarise herself with the context and to build rapport with the identified participants so that a variety of perspectives could be collected and understood to reduce uncertainties while conducting interviews as purported by (Baxter and Jack, 2014 p. 556). The study findings were brought back to the participants for authentication to avoid bias and to enhance ownership of the responses.

4.7.2 Transferability

Transferability in qualitative case studies imply that the researcher uses the small samples to draw rich qualitative data that shares certain characteristics orientated to the contextual uniqueness (Gray, Grove and Sutherland, 2017). Significantly, (Lincoln and Guba,1985) added that qualitative researchers should ensure that their studies generate thick descriptions and detailed account of their behaviour. This helped the study findings to be applied in context like the case that was studied and able to yield the same findings because thick descriptions of the phenomenon were detailed during the semi-structured interviews and the transcripts from the qualitative survey questionnaire. It was possible for the researcher to interrogate the issue of the NYP implementation in the CoE from how the structures, systems and processes were applied from the governance point of view.

4.7.3 Dependability

As proposed by (Lincoln and Guba, 1985), the researcher made sure that the findings of the study are dependable from multiple angles. The researcher adopted an evaluation approach as this is the hallmark of determining how the structures. systems and processes were implemented in the CoE to achieve the aspirations of the NYP to benefit the identified youth. In this regard, Gray, Grove and Sutherland point compels the researcher to keep all the completed records of all phases of the study process including the problem formulation, how participants were selected, fieldwork notes, interview transcripts, data analysis decisions, in an accessible manner to other researchers.

This was done to ensure that peer researchers can evaluate the findings against the completed study findings to ensure that proper procedures were followed. The researcher was open for criticisms by other researchers in the field and was open in his conduct of this study. The researcher selected the study participants in a detailed manner that limited biasness and the sampling procedure, and criteria was done according to the purpose of the study and the problem was reemphasised consistently throughout the study to arrive at data analysis that was logically analysed. The study was subjected to peer review validation for quality confirmation.

4.7.4 Confirmability

The researcher noting what (Lincoln and Guba, 1995) have suggested when conducting qualitative evaluation studies, ensured the recognition of the complete objectivity that sometimes is considered impossible in social research. This was ensured in this study to guarantee that the researcher acted in good faith while conducting the study. As (Gray, Grove and Sutherland, 2017) have suggested, the researcher ensured that the criteria set out in

ensuring confirmability was followed to the authenticity of the study. This included the use of fairness when the researcher selected the participants to ensure the representativeness of all perceptions of participants in the study and the ontological authenticity which asks for the study to help participants gain a better comprehension of their social context, and the educative reality which (Gray, Grove and Sutherland, 2017) posit that this implore the researcher to help participant to" appreciate better the perspectives of other members of their social setting". Therefore, in respect of these criteria, the study ensured that the participation was voluntary and addressed the question and the purpose of the study set for itself in the beginning of the conceptualisation of the problem.

Chapter Summary

This chapter described procedures used to collect data that informed the study to arrive at a particular angle as set out in the beginning of the study. As the purpose was to explore and examine the perceptions of the CoE NYP implementers and the perceptions of the beneficiaries of the NYP in the CoE, the use of the data collection procedures and techniques were able to elicit valuable insights to the identified phenomenon of how the structures, systems and processes are applied to benefit the youth. The chapter also discussed how data were analysed to give effect to the study findings. Also, the study elaborated on how the positionality of the researcher affected the study findings to give the study findings credibility. Moreover, the chapter discussed how the participants were selected and how their information was protected to promote ethical practices in conducting studies that involve human participants. Also, the processes that helped to enhance the credibility of the study were discussed.

CHAPTER FIVE

PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

The main purpose of the study was to evaluate the key structures, systems and processes by exploring and examining how the CoE in Gauteng Province implement these to mainstream the National Youth Policy. To achieve this, the study used the views of the participants' perceptions gained through their experiences on the implementation of the NYP and the benefits derived from it. This was considered because the participants had lived experience on how the implementation of the NYP in the CoE benefitted them and how the NYP is implemented by the CoE policy implementers. The participants' responses added some insightful feedback to the research questions which was posed by the study.

For the researcher to have gainfully listened to the participants responses elucidated through the semi-structured interviews and having transcribed the participants responses from the qualitative survey interviews, helped the researcher to analyse the experiences of both the CoE policy implementers and the identified youth from the CoE catchment areas identified by the study on how the structures, systems and processes are implemented to mainstream the NYP to empower the youth. In this chapter, three study questions posed to the CoE policy implementers were analysed for their responses and four questions posed to the youth residing within the five identified areas were also analysed with supporting evidence, including both quotations and feedback from the participants.

5.2 Demographic information of participants

The participants responses informed the development of the findings from an individual semi-structured interviews which was conducted with three policy implementers from the CoE and twenty youth representatives of the youthful population within the five identified areas in the COE which were Katlehong, Tokoza, Bedfordview, Duduza and Vosloorus. These areas were identified by the study because they constitute many unemployed youthful populations despite that at the National level of governance, municipalities are required to implement the

NYP and budget for its implementation. All the participants participated voluntarily in the study without coercion. All the participants had varied experiences of how the NYP implemented and the benefits derived thereof.

For the CoE policy implementers, each participant was interviewed individually in the CoE Head Offices where the participants are tasked with implementing the NYP policy throu8ghout the CoE jurisdictional areas. As the study identified five areas which met the selection criteria as set out by the study, a survey questionnaire was distributed through google forms with the help of ward councillors who had information about some of the participants. By doing so, it was helpful for the researcher to gain access to them using a survey questionnaire. The use of the individual semi-structured interviews was convenient for this study as identified participants worked in the same building and the researcher had prior knowledge about their availability. Individual semi-structured interviews also allowed for the convenient transcription of recorded responses from the participants narratives. These responses were transcribed within days of occurrence as the participants elaborated more of what they were asked during the interview sessions and were allowed to verify the authenticity of their responses.

For the participants identified with the CoE five areas as explained above, the use of the qualitative survey questionnaire as it helped the researcher to elicit more information about their experiences of the implementation of the NYP.

5.3 Interview Questions

The study was guide by the following three questions for the individual semi-structured interviews held with the three identified NYP implementers within the CoE.

1.2.1 How do the key systems, structures and processes get implemented to mainstream the NYP in the CoE?

1.2.2 Which stakeholders engage in putting these key systems, structures and process to mainstream the NYP in the CoE and if any, what is their role?

1.2.3 How does the resources mobilise to support the implementation of the NYP in the CoE benefit the intended beneficiaries?

1.3 Interview questions for the qualitative survey questionnaire.

The qualitative survey questionnaire was guided by the following three questions.

1.3.1 Can you explain the benefits that you have derived from the mainstreaming of the NYP by the City of Ekurhuleni?

1.3.2 Are you involved in the planning and decision-making in the mainstreaming of the NYP by the City of Ekurhuleni? If so, how are you invited to take part in this process?

1.3.3 Since the NYP has been ma instreamed in the CoE, what notable human developmental changes can one attest to?

5.4 Identified themes of the study

Data from the semi-structured were extracted from the audio tape and data from the qualitative survey which was conducted by using the google forms were analysed for their similarities and categorised into themes that informed the development of the reporting part. The study used the thematic analysis to analyse data, and this made possible to use it in this study to provide ways in which participants narratives and responses can be categorised based on the similarities. This provided the researcher with a chance to deduce meaningful themes that became the units for analysing data collected from the participants. From the participants responses, three distinct themes were developed considering the similarities that emerged from the study through analysis.

The three major themes elicited from the semi-structured interviews included the following:

5.4.1 Themes one (1) Governance

This question sought to understand how the structures, systems and processes were implemented to mainstream the NYP policy by the City of Ekurhuleni. This was informed by the fact that despite that the NYP has been made a priority transformative policy since 2020 by the National government to benefit the youth within municipalities.

5.4.2 Theme two (2) Stakeholder relationships

Theme two was informed by the question that sought to understand the role of stakeholders involved in the structures, systems and processes that mainstream the NYP in the City of Ekurhuleni. The question wanted to elicit views from the NYP implementers on how the youth engage in the planning and decision-making regarding the mainstreaming of the NYP by the City of Ekurhuleni.

5.4.3 Theme three (3) Resource mobilisation

Theme three was informed by the question which sought to understand how resources are mobilised to support the mainstreaming of the NYP by the City of Ekurhuleni. The researcher asked this question to have view on how the youth residing in the five identified areas engage in taking decision on issues that affect them.

Theme one (1)

An understanding of how the structures, systems and processes were implemented to mainstream the NYP by the City of Ekurhuleni.

In this theme, various responses pointed out to the fact that the City of Ekurhuleni is struggling with setting up the structures, systems and processes to mainstream the NYP policy. This is so because of the instability of the governance systems within the City of Ekurhuleni. Politics has been stifling the implementation of this process for a quite a long time despite that the municipality is constitutionally mandated to implement the NYP as the country's developmental strategy. The fluctuation of the governance structures based on political changes now and then really affects proper decision-making as each political party in local government prioritise its own constituency which becomes a formal accusation in setting up structures, systems and process that aim to mainstream the NYP by the City of Ekurhuleni. This evidenced by the following assertion:

"You know the City of Ekurhuleni governance structures is compromised by the political instability which the municipality has been experiencing since the 2021 local government elections. Since there was no outright winner, the municipality was forced to be governed by coalition government comprising of political parties which have divergent political interests. This affected the setting up of structures, systems and processes to mainstream the NYP policy."

Although these sentiments were held by all the participants in the individual semi-structured interviews, a divergent view was elicited by another participant which was more political than other participant. The participant has this this to say:

"Since 2016, the Democratic Alliance (DA) took over the governance of the municipality with the help of the ActionSA and other political parties which now are part of the moonshot pact. This alliance was not good for the municipality as this alliance prioritised policies that only benefit their constituencies. The DA bullied other alliance partners to come with a skewed service delivery pattern. This affected the setting of responsive structures, systems and processes that could benefit the mainstreaming of the NYP in the municipality."

These sentiments were overwhelmingly agreed upon by the other participants responses. Political instability and skewed service delivery processes deprive the youth of Ekurhuleni to benefit from the implementation of the NYP.

Without proper local governance structures in the municipality compromises on the human developmental aspirations of the youth within the municipality.

"The preferential treatment to certain areas in terms of service delivery by the political elites has seen us as the policy implementers failing in our duty to implement the NYP policy. Without proper governance structures in the municipality, needed services to the previously marginalised groups such as youth, are continually deprived of their constitutional right to human developmental services."

Theme two (2)

An understanding of how stakeholders such as youth engage in the planning and decision-making on the issues that affect them by the municipality.

Participatory governance entails the inclusion of the stakeholders involved in the policy implementation. It is so even in local government because it is where the people feel about the services provided by government. However, with political instability in the City of Ekurhuleni as it has been propounded earlier in the afore-mentioned responses, this activity is compromised despite that the NYP 2020 stresses that the youth should be included in the implementation of policies that affect them.

This so sad that the areas identified by the study, constitute a large number of unemployed youths living in squalid conditions despite that the City of Ekurhuleni is the manufacturing hub of the Gauteng province. The participants have elucidated these sentiments as follows:

"As NYP policy implementers we are privy to the fact that before implementing policies, we need to engage the affected communities through the IDPs which are normally conducted every time a political administration takes over the governance of the municipality as set out in the Municipal Systems Act. However, with the political instability and poor political manoeuvring, the municipality has experienced a disdain for the recognition of this responsive governance element where the affected communities are consulted to hear their views about what they need."

One of the most inherent requirements of the municipal governance attributes as espoused in the Municipal Systems Act is the competency of the municipal officials to render quality services to their constituencies. This has been a concern for some time in the CoE governance systems. This has also had an impact on the delivery of services. To support this view, one participant had this to say:

"It is worrisome that in the CoE, administrative appointments are made based on political affiliations rather than competency. This has severely contributed to the disdain for the inclusion of different youth structures when planning and taking decisions on implementing the municipal priorities on service delivery. This compromises on our abilities to steer the municipality to the right developmental path to benefit the youth within the municipality. The party that wins the majority of the vote, decides on who should be appointed on which position. Responsive governance has collapsed to a state that one just comes to work for the sake of getting a salary at the month rather than providing the needed` services because of the political impediments that hinders one to perform constitutional duties to the best of his ability."

Another concern raised by another participant was lack of communication between the political office bearers and the management of the municipality. Communication is one of the key factors that ensures that information is equally passed on to all the persons involved in the management of projects as well as policy implementation. To authenticate this statement, one participant has this to say:

"*We are working in silos. This becomes a problem when issues such as assembling a team to come with ways to develop structures, systems and processes to mainstream the NYP in the municipality. Although this policy is important in realising that the potentialities of the youth are met, there is no will power to address it. Another challenge is the lack of buy-in from the political office bearers who some of them do not believe in this policy because of some divergent political agendas."*

These sentiments were shared by other participants highlighting the importance of seamless communication in implementing programmes. These participants have propounded about this issue like this:

"Issues such as policy implementation requires a team that is amenable to change. As of now, whenever one suggests something that is important for the municipality to achieve its developmental mandate, there is always brick wall with which one is faced. There is no interest in doing what is right from the political office bearers."

Theme three (3)

Theme three was informed by the question which sought to understand how resources are mobilised to support the mainstreaming of the NYP by the City of Ekurhuleni. The researcher asked this question to have view on how the youth residing in the five identified areas participate in taking decision on issues that affect them. In this theme, participants narratives pointed out to the disdain of the CoE to consultations before the policy is implemented. Some suggestions from the individual semi-structured interviews highlighted that because of the political instability within the municipality was a cause for concern because it interferes with the processes of decision-making, consultations with the citizens residing within the municipality influenced by political manoeuvring. This

leaves the administrative competence of the municipality in limbo because the administrative personnel depend on the political direction of the municipality to come with ways to reach out to their constituencies. This was said in this way by the participants:

"We are working under stressful working conditions that even affects our mental health. The political instability as well as political infiltrations in the allocation of budgets to mainstream the NYP policy becomes cumbersome as the constituencies are not involved in the planning and decision-making on how the resources should be mobilised for certain human developmental programmes and projects. As competent and trained personnel in our fields of practice, we experience a kind of political administrations that come and go at any given time. This has a serious impact on the delivery of public services to the youth."

These sentiments were shared by other participants who alluded on the impact of non-consultation of the youth in the mobilisation of the resources to mainstream the NYP by the CoE. Consultations of key stakeholders is a cornerstone of participatory democracy before policies and programmes are implemented. This helps to give the policy and programme implementers a view on how resources should be mobilised in accordance with the needs of the stakeholders on which these policies and programmes should be implemented. In this case, participants highlighted this concern in this way:

"You know, consultation is the backbone of participatory democracy. What is happening in the CoE as of now is the total opposite this. As policy implementers tasked with the implementation of the NYP policy, we remain confused on how to implement this human developmental policy. The issue of the NYP is governed in the office of the mayor. This becomes a challenge because the position of the mayor is a political appointment, and given the political instability within the municipality, the uncertainty of political buy-in becomes apparent. Another challenge is that youth governance issues are spread among several departments such as social development, health and education with each having its own priorities which might conflict with one another as well as with us. So, this confusion makes our job difficult to mobilise resources and to get a political buy-in to mainstream the NYP to benefit the intended constituencies."

The following are themes developed from the qualitative survey questionnaire conducted with the youth residing in the CoE catchment areas identified by the study. The themes answered the following questions:

1.3.4 Can you explain the benefits that you have derived from the mainstreaming of the NYP by the City of Ekurhuleni?

1.3.5 Are you involved in the planning and decision-making in the mainstreaming of the NYP by the City of Ekurhuleni? If so, how are you invited to take part in this process?

1.3.6 Since the NYP has been mainstreamed in the CoE, what notable human developmental changes can one attest to?

Theme 1

Theme one (1) Youth conceptions about the NYP

This question sought to understand how the youth from the five identified areas benefitted from the mainstreaming of the NYP in the CoE.

Theme two (2) Exclusion in governance

This question sought to understand how the youth engage in the planning and decision-making in the mainstreaming of the NYP by the CoE from the perceptions of the youth.

Theme three (3) Developmental challenges

Theme 3 answered question three (3).

This question sought to understand what can be attested from the NYP mainstreaming and implementation by the CoE.
Theme 1

In this theme responses related that the participants do not know about the NYP and have not benefitted from its mainstreaming in any way. This corroborates what the responses from the semi-structured interview said about the challenges they faced when assembling structures, systems and processes in the CoE. Without these processes to deliver on this constitutional imperative, the youth residing in the CoE stand no chance of benefitting from it. Some of the responses highlighted this challenge as follows:

"It is for the first time to hear about this. We have been without job opportunities in this ward for ages. Many of our colleagues who were at this age before us are languishing in poverty and some have just been discouraged from looking for job opportunities or something that could uplift them financially. What we know is that financial assistance to start-up businesses is provided for by the NYDA which is an employment agency for young people who members of the ANC and having close relationships with the senior members of this organisation."

Another participants response supported these assertions in way that ought to portray what is happening in their areas as some sort of uncaring behaviour by their ward councillors.

"*You know we just living because of God's grace. These councillors in our area just care for their votes to stay in their positions and feed their families. The last time we were invited in the IDPs was in 2021 after the local government elections. That was done to soothe of suffering souls to believe that something will be done for us as we gave some political parties our votes. As of now, no one cares because since then we have kept our hopes on every political party that come to govern this municipality every now and then because they are always fighting among themselves over big slice of the cake without recognising our value."*

In support of this statement, more responses highlighted how vulnerable the youth residing in the CoE are despite that the municipality has leverage on the manufacturing power of the private sector industries. What was more concerning was that the responses highlighted the use of foreign nationals as a source of cheap labour by these manufacturing industries to bar the youth in the employment age within the municipality. Some of these responses highlighted this challenge in this way:

"The municipality has every opportunity to create jobs for us in collaboration with the private sector as the municipality hosts some of the global manufacturing companies. However, it seems that the municipality is conspiring with these businesses to offer foreign nationals the kind of jobs that we can easily do because these people accept everything that these companies offer. This becomes a great challenge for us as we perceive the municipality as complicit in making our lives unbearable. I know that in some municipalities around Gauteng province, some youths are cared for by the implementation of the policy you are asking us about."

This issue seemed to be a greatest challenge considering the language that the researcher could draw from the participants responses. The researcher could derive some verbal cues that resonate with the anger that the participants tried to convey. Poverty and unemployment remain one of the human developmental challenges that the youth residing in the areas which the study identified as resourceful areas. Also, the influx of people from other provinces in South Africa add to the unemployment of the youth as the influx of the foreign nationals. To authenticate this challenge, some participants' responses said like this:

"You know, it is so disappointing that you are asking me about the policy that the municipality has not communicated to us or even implemented it to benefit us. You know our municipality is so generous to other people who come here to seek job opportunities than us. Just have a look at what is happening in our areas. Our areas today look filthy despite that there so many youths that are not working that can be used to clean our areas to

regain its former glory. When see rubble collectors working in our area, you notice that these people do not live in our area but coming from somewhere. This is a lost opportunity for the municipality to leverage on to ease the burden of unemployment among us. With national elections looming around, you will see these politicians including the President of the country coming to our areas looking for votes and when we asked him about our plight, he just respond shockingly as if he is an outsider from the challenges from the challenges, we face everyday including his party faithful".

Theme two

In this theme, one participant acknowledged that the municipality does involve some of the participants in the planning and decision-making on the mainstreaming of the NYP by the CoE. This participant has this to say:

"Yes, I was once involved in the planning and decision-making on issues that affects us. This was done through imbizos that were organised by the councillor who is the member of the ruling party, and I believe various parties do so in their wards as this is a constitutional imperative."

However, some participants responses claimed that this activity is non-existent in their wards despite that they affiliated to the ruling party and other political party formations which constitute the governance structure of the CoE as it is co-governed by various political formations. Deviant participants responses elucidated valuable information like this:

"I have not been invited in any of the structures that seeks to convey our role in participation in the decision-making on issues that affects us. You see, these councillors are law unto themselves. They just decide on what is best for us without involving us in the conceptualisation of these programmes. They just involve those who are known in the political circles or the gullible ones who will just rubber stamp what these councillors have already decided on about us."

Moreover, some participants responses suggested that the structures, systems and processes of the municipality are politically inclined to serve a particular sector of society to the detriment of the other. This defeats the purpose for which the NYP is developed to serve as a form of redistributive social policy to ensure that every youth interests are served irrespective of one's political affiliation. These sentiments are authenticated by the following excerpt:

"From my experience I have seen this happening in the way that suggest that only members of certain political parties receive assistance in whatever they need because they are known in certain political structures. This is

painful because the government resources are meant for everyone in South Africa irrespective of political affiliation, but some political parties use this leverage to boost their political stance in the municipality."

In support of these assertions, some participants responses seemed to suggest that this phenomenon is rife in the CoE as only members of the political party which has the majority of seats in the municipality gets a bigger share of the resources which turns out to be accessed by only its members within the municipality. The following excerpt justifies these responses.

"We have been living in this municipality for over ten years and more without even noticing that the municipality have processes to leverage on to mainstream the NYP policy. From what I heard from the grape vine, this political party invite its members through its councillor, and it is not all that are invited, but only those who have close ties with the councillor to participate in the decision-making and give input on what the municipality deems correct for developmental trajectory".

Theme three

The outcomes of all social policy interventions are the upliftment of the human developmental outcomes of the target population it seeks to address. Participants responses have shed into how the NYP as social intervention strategy has failed dismally in its implementation to redress on the developmental issues that affects the youth within the CoE. As the researcher was convinced that the NYP was implemented in the CoE despite that some participants alluded to the political hurdles that interferes with its implementation, some participants responses validated this implementation quagmire. This is evidenced by the following excerpt:

"I have never experienced or seen any intervention coming from the municipality to address our developmental plight. We are left to fend for ourselves despite that the government promises us a plethora of interventions during elections. Even the ward councillor is nowhere to be found to deliver on the party's promises. What these political parties are interested in, is the ballooning of their pockets and that of their immediate family members and friends."

This assertion was supported by several participants who responded in this way to the question.

"We thought that with the EFF in the governance of the municipality things will change for the better for the youth as its constituency comprises of the youth populations. However, we are so disappointed that the EFF also is like other political parties. What this political party does, is to enrich its cohort of political elites within the municipality. There is no mainstreaming of the NYP to benefit us."

What is more striking was that every ward councillor was concerned with the constituency which the parties represented. The constitution of the Republic of South Africa asserts the provision of developmental services to every South African irrespective of political affiliation. It also states that the state is obligated within its reasonable means to offer such service. The NDP vision 2012 affirms that the youth should be at the centre of development by 2030 and should be developed in such way that befits the country's developmental goals. However, participants responses showed that the ward councillors within the CoE have shown a disdain for these developmental initiatives as well as to the NYP which is specifically designed as a policy for youth development. This is evidenced by the following extract:

"Each councillor belonging to a certain political party serves only the party's constituency despite that the country's resources are meant to be shared by everyone who resides in the municipality. These councillors use the public resources to coerce people to join their political parties. I think this wrong because it is our parents who pay tax to ensure that the state functions. For example, with the elections looming, the CoE has become a battle ground for political parties to woo us to vote for them."

This statement was supported by several responses espoused by the participants. This was propounded in this way:

"You see, these parties use our socioeconomic status as a leverage to coerce us to vote for them. Last month, the ANC President came to our place and promised us houses and jobs. Then we asked him how as the ANC will achieve that because the municipality has been struggling to mainstream the NYP policy that has been conceptualised since 2020 and there were previous youth developmental strategies before the NYP 2020 which failed to achieve our developmental needs in the CoE. You know what he said did not make any sense to us because the ANC has been in the governance of the CoE for ages, but nothing tangible can be drawn from it."

This was an interesting conversation with the participants as it elicited more varying responses that were of interest to the researcher as her position was that of a learner and the participants were teachers because of their lived experience on the issue that was under investigation. Despite that the issue of political manoeuvring by the ward councillors was extremely concerning for some participants, some had a different view on this issue. Participants responses showed unbiases towards any political party. These objective views provided a turning point for the study. This is evidenced by the following excerpt:

"As a resident of the CoE, for several years I have seen some developmental interventions geared for the youth residing with the municipality. These interventions have necessitated me to achieve a bachelor's degree in social work through the Mayoral bursary scheme. What is challenging with this, is that after completion, one finds it

difficult to find work as the municipality says that it does not have sufficient funds to employ us. If, the National government could allocate more funds for this initiative to benefit more youth like me that will be great."

Following from these views, more responses alluded the same way that political polarisation is a cause for concern for the youth residing in the five areas identified by the study. This became an obvious process when participants responded to how they benefitted from the mainstreaming of the NYP in the CoE. One of the reasons for political polarisation in the delivery of public services was said to be influenced by the upcoming elections. This participant has indicated the following:

"As of now we see political parties coming into our areas with lots of promises just to woo us to vote for them. These political parties do this by coming with some goodies as if we are just their paupers who depends on hand outs. For instance, the ANC the use the Department of Social Development funds to buy some groceries and hand out to their constituencies as a sign of coercion to vote for them. By doing this, the political party concerned target the youth as they know that we constitute the majority of the prospective voters and some of us are vulnerable to coercion because of our vulnerable situation caused by this political party."

These concerns reverberated throughout the qualitative survey responses s majority of the participants held this view. This was concerning because as the CoE is constitutionally mandated to provide services in an even way to all its citizens, the encroachment of political polarisation among the citizens when providing these services raises some political intolerance. Some participants responses indicated that:

"It is so shocking that the governing party uses its leverage on its hold on the public purse to abuse the state resources to empower only its constituency. We just see some people within my age range benefitting from the public resources provided by the CoE to the detriment of us who are not members of the governing party. We are languishing in poverty and hope for better services is a pipe dream. Compounded by the ineffectiveness of the ward councillors and inefficiency in the provision of services, the mainstreaming of the NYP remains at dead end."

5.5 Chapter Summary

This chapter has discussed the themes identified that guided the analysis of the study as thematic data analysis was identified as useful for both semi-structured interviews and qualitative survey interviews. Themes drawn from the participants varying responses from the policy implementers from the CoE and responses drawn from the qualitative survey have shown how difficult is to develop structures, systems and process to mainstream the NYP in a political settlement that is not stable. Also, the chapter discussed how challenging is the issue of political alignment in delivering services to the youth in the CoE. The chapter recognised this as drawback to the country developmental agenda as espoused in the country's National Development plan as well as the NYP stipulations regarding youth development and inclusivity in the governance of the local government decision-making.

This chapter provides a grounding on issues of political affiliation regarding the provision of human developmental services. As it has been observed through the participants responses on the issue of the implementation of the NYP, the chapter highlighted that there should be mechanisms that seeks to ensure that the youth in the CoE participate in the planning and decision-making on issues that affects them. The chapter has foregrounded the reasons for the study to inform the discussions on the next chapter. The next chapter provide the discussions that pertains to the issues discussed in chapter five as well as addressing the strength and weaknesses which the study encountered during its execution and discuss the recommendations and conclusion of the study.

CHAPTER SIX

DISCUSSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND CONCLUSION FOR THE STUDY

6. Introduction

The interpretation of the study findings chapter shared the findings which the study has established. In this chapter, discussions of the findings and implications for various stakeholder groups were discussed as well as the report concluding remarks. The chapter concludes with recommendations for future studies to evaluate the key structures, systems and processes by exploring and examining how these are implemented by the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE) in Gauteng Province to mainstream the National Youth Policy (NYP).

6.1 Discussion of the findings

The discussion of the findings in this chapter is based on the identified themes presented in chapter five (5) which highlighted the challenges which the CoE experience in developing structures, systems and processes to mainstream the NYP policy to benefit the youth as is the municipal constitutional mandate. This was done in line with the purpose of the study which was to evaluate the key structures, systems and processes by exploring and examining how these are implemented by the CoE in Gauteng Province to mainstream the National Youth Policy by assessing the perceptions of the CoE policy implementers and the youth from the five identified areas where the phenomenon of youth poverty and unemployment persist despite that the COE is mandated to implement the NYP as the youth developmental strategy. The next section of this chapter discusses participants' feedback related to the perceptions espoused by the identified participants in this study which were categorised into three themes based on their relatedness. The themes were gleaned from the literature postulated in chapter two. The discussions of the findings are clustered into two distinctive categories with each representing the findings of each cohort of participants. The following discussions of the study findings involves the themes developed from the individual semi-structured interviews held with the CoE NYP policy implementers.

6.1.1 An understanding of how the structures, systems and processes were implemented to mainstream the NYP policy

The theme was developed with an understanding more participants responses highlighted an understanding of the role of the structures, systems and processes developed to mainstream the NYP policy in the CoE. Perspectives given in confidence by the participants highlighted varying responses in relation to how these structures, systems and processes are implemented. Feedback from participants in this study showed that these systems as non-existent despite that these systems are important to steer the implementation of the NYP within the CoE jurisdictional areas to address issues that affects the youth, perceived governance as a vehicle through which an organisation can help steer its human developmental mandate. In the case of the CoE, participants responses noted the importance of responsive governance structures to help achieve the municipality human developmental mandate. Most of the participants narratives agreed that the way the CoE governance mechanisms is structured, hinders on the trajectory of human developmental mandate which is to address issues that affects the youth.

Some participants narratives illuminated the idea that for the structures, systems and processes to steer the developmental trajectory of the municipality, political office bearers should be cognisant of the fact that their disdain for the municipality developmental trajectory, have ramifications for the youth developmental needs. As responsive governance embraces the tenets of good governance, over some time since the municipality governance has been in the hands of coalition political partners, the governance of the municipality has been on the downward trajectory in terms of service provisions that seeks to address the youth developmental issues. This issue presents a facade of a dream that the municipality wish to address as youth are regarded as the future leader leaders of tomorrow.

The weakened governance mechanisms of the municipality have made it possible for the corrupt political tendencies to deviate from the normal processes to develop structures, systems and processes to consider issues that affect the youth from a non-bias point of view. Participants responses highlighted that the encroachment of the political tendencies in the management of municipal development programmes have scuppered the achievement of this constitutional mandate as there is always fighting among the political parties in municipality. While the study investigates how the political infiltration impacts on service delivery, (Onias et al, 2018) note that these observations are prevalent in most African countries. This phenomenon breeds itself from the trust which the people have invested in certain governing political parties.

The ingrained belief that liberation movements are the pillars of democratic governance principles remain misplaced when considering how their actions are when one considers their governance outputs. This is so because

the participants responses highlight the disjoint between good governance and service delivery in the CoE. Participants responses pointed out that the structures, systems and processes in the COE to mainstream the NYP is however compromised by the lack of political commitment from the political parties involved in the governance of the municipality. From the Social Systems Theory (SST) perspective, participatory governance is observed when all the stakeholders participate in the planning and decision-making processes to tackle issues that affects a certain sector of population. Without the recognition of these elements, issues such as accountability enforcement exemplified in public demonstrations, advocacy campaigns, and the organising of the municipal IDPs dictated by the Municipal Systems Act dictates, could be affected. As this theory advocates for collaborative efforts to enforce youth empowerment strategies, municipalities as composed of systems, should organise IDPs and imbizos as municipal engagement platforms with the citizens. Failure of the CoE to organise this inn transparent manner, could jeopardise the intentions of the youth policy mainstreaming. The recognition of participatory governance in the CoE could assist in the identification of youth empowerment needs. This could be done in the form of report cards, engaging in participatory public policy making, monitoring public expenditure and tracking.

By doing efforts, it could help improve the effectiveness of institutional governance and accountability mechanisms of the municipality to ward off political infiltrations in the governance of the CoE (Ahmad, 2008). Involving citizens in public commissions and hearings and oversight committees in the governance of the CoE governance systems could be of benefit for the municipality to meet its constitutional obligations to redress the unabating imbalances in human developmental imperatives within the municipality. It has also been suggested that youth governance initiatives are most effective when responsive governance systems are institutionalised within the governance mechanisms of the municipalities. This has been observed to create horizontal accountability mechanisms which are more transparent and open to stakeholders' participation in decision-making that benefits society as the constitution dictates. In this case, transparency remains inextricably linked to accountability.

As vulnerable youth formations are the greatest beneficiaries of effective critical youth empowerment strategies, reliant on government services becomes non-existent in situations where structures, systems and processes are accountable because of political gatekeeping by other youth formations aligned to the governing party (Malena, Forster & Singh, 2004). The proponents of the SST maintain that by involving the youth in initiatives geared towards demanding accountability of elected leaders, have potential to strengthen the elements of democratic principles. This also helps in identifying the complexities that hampers the monitoring of the performance of the elected local governance structures to demand for transparency when government financial resources are utilised in a biased form to benefit the politically aligned youth formations.

6.1.2 An understanding of how stakeholders engage in the planning and decision-making regarding the NYP

Participants narratives have highlighted how difficult it is to operate in a political environment that is not conducive to implement human developmental initiatives. This is necessitated by the political instability because of the unstable political coalition governments. Challenges like this have interfered with the mainstreaming of the NYP within the municipality. Much of the discussions elicited through the individual semi-structured interviews pointed out to the unresponsive local governance systems in the implementation of the NYP. Most participants have highlighted these concerns. Participants responses highlighted the ineffectiveness of the political representatives within the wards to advocate fort their political parties service delivery strategies. According to the Municipal Systems Act, political parties are obligated by law to conduct community engagements through the implementation of the IDPs every five years they are in power. These municipal engagements allow for stakeholders to engage on issues that that they would like to be addressed by the municipality.

Moreover, participants responses have also highlighted that because of the political instability within the municipality, this activity has not been happening since the 2021 local government elections which ushered a coalition government since there were no outright winners. Since then, there was no political stability because of the differing political interests within the municipality. This has affected how the services were delivered. For instance, participants responses have elucidated that this challenge has affected on how the municipality delivers its services to the citizens within the identified wards. Some participants narratives in this regard have shown that some political parties in the governance of the municipality insidiously provide services only to areas where their constituencies reside to the detriment of other residents who are not members of such political party. This defeats the notion of inclusiveness when state resources are implemented through service delivery provisions. The lack of innovation by the CoE in terms of service delivery provisions have subjected the youth residing within the five identified areas to risk of being crowded out by the political parties involved in the governance of the municipality because of their political beliefs.

The NYP aims to transform the youth irrespective of political affiliation by informing, educating them about the services which the municipalities should provide them with and how to access them. By not advocating for this human developmental policy, the CoE is deviating from the strategic mandate to align itself with the developmental trajectory of the country espoused in the NDP Vision 2030. Also, the inability of the CoE to incorporate the voice of the youth when effecting decisions on issues that affects the youth, have some of the participants responses alluding that this put the credibility of the municipality at risk of non-compliance with the national mandate. In this line, the Social Systems theory supports the idea that citizen action is the central constitutive element of responsive governance and the basis for citizen-led engagement to effect social change. In line with this, Ayliffe,

Aslam & Schjødt (2017) assert that citizen's action is comprised of diverse activities and typically includes demand making (for information, justification or sanctions); protests against injustice; or claims for better public goods. Therefore, the citizen's action element within the governance framework provides clear indications of the abilities which collective action of the citizens can effect change and remove the constraints that disable the collective coordinating power. Since the conceptualisation of the NYP as a developmental tool within which the municipalities can leverage to engage and develop the youth within their jurisdictions, to change the way the youth live, the way youth communicate and the way youth respond to their environment, Ayliffe, Aslam & Schjødt (2017) further postulate that the advantages brought about by the NYP in municipalities is one that demystifies challenges in access to public services.

With weak governance mechanisms in the CoE and plethora of political challenges brought about by the instable governance systems, the structures, systems and processes must contend with these political changes and challenges. As it has been observed from the participants narratives and responses, the instability of the municipal governance creates opportunities for unequal access to the municipal services for the youth as the municipality struggles with implementing structures, systems and processes to ensure that the NYP is mainstreamed evenly to benefit the youthful population. Moreover, Ayliffe, Aslam & Schjødt (2017) affirms that the imbalance or gap in the local government service provisions, could lead directly to an infringement of people's right of access to free public services. The author argues that this emphasises the needs to be placed on establishing ward-based communication systems in municipalities to advance participatory governance structures to effect social redistributive justice.

Recognising that the CoE services a broad, and diverse socioeconomically unequal population, with youth at the receiving end of these service provisions, the rationale for the public participation in the municipal planning and decision-making becomes imperative. Also, ward communities may provide platforms for community engagement to spread the message across all community members to engage in imbizos and IDPs. This could help in creating opportunities for the underserved sections of the public, such as the youth to receive information of interest to them that might not reach them because of political instability in the municipality. These statements were supported by the participants responses that sought to highlight the influence of political instability to ineffective service delivery outcomes in the CoE.

6. 1.3 An understanding of how resources are mobilised to support the mainstreaming of the NYP.

Participants narratives have highlighted about the deficiencies in the allocation of the resources to support the mainstreaming of the NYP by the CoE. Further, participants responses had a common view that this subjects the municipality in jeopardy and to remain ineffective in terms of service delivery initiatives such as meeting the youth

developmental needs. Various responses from the participants have highlighted that this remains a concern for the CoE service delivery objectives. Moreover, some participants responses have noted the discrepancy in allocating of funds for the implementation of the NYP within the municipal catchment areas. This the participants alluded that stems from how the funds are allocated and disbursed. The National Department of Cooperative Governance allocates funds to municipalities for the implementation of the NYP acco5rding to its mandate. Therefore, each municipality receive these funds in line with the constitutional imperatives. However, according to the participants responses, it is not known how these funds are allocated because of the municipal political instability. This creates challenges for monitoring of how these funds are utilised as there is always abdication of the responsibilities by the governance systems. Findings of this study through semi-structured interviews have shed light on how the governance structures takes advantage of the political instability within the municipality to redirect the funds to other programmes which in turn deprive the youth from getting the needed human developmental needs.

6.2 Discussions of the study findings involving the youth from the five identified areas within the CoE jurisdiction conducted through a qualitative survey interview.

6.2.1 An understanding of how the youth from the five identified areas benefitted from the mainstreaming of the NYP in the CoE.

The belief that policies are developed and implemented to benefit their intended beneficiaries can be regarded a myth when considering how municipalities use their political majority leverage to implement these policies. Findings from this study revealed that there are discrepancies in knowledge about the NYP and its intended objectives. On this aspect, varying perspectives from the qualitative survey interview were elicited. One of this varying response was articulated in this way to show how political opportunism encroaches with the delivery services within the CoE.

"It *is for the first time to hear about this. We have been without job opportunities in this municipal ward for ages. Many of our colleagues who were at this age before us are languishing in poverty and some have just been discouraged from looking for job opportunities or something that could uplift them financially. What we know is that financial assistance to start-up businesses is provided for by the NYDA which is an employment agency for young people who happen to be members of the ANC and having close relationships with the senior members of this organisation."*

In many instances of policy and programme conceptualisation, communication is the best tool to effectively pass messages to the communities involved in the human developmental programmes such as the IDPs. When the

people are involved in programme implementation, in the local government, they are also able to make informed decision about their involvement in the mainstreaming of policies. In the case of this study, communication about the mainstreaming of the NYP within the CoE could be beneficial for all the youth involved. However, the findings of the study reveal that the youth from the five identified areas of the study were not aware of this NYP mainstreaming in the CoE. Some participants revealed that they live in abject poverty despite that the municipality is constitutionally mandated to deliver the needed services to all its citizens. This was concerning when considering the basic tenets of good governance.

6.2.2 An understanding of how the youth engaged in the planning and decision-making in the mainstreaming of the NYP by the CoE.

Participatory governance is based on the principle of inclusiveness when organisations plan and decide on implementing programmes and policies that affect a certain category of the citizens. This is important as it allow the citizens to plan and come with decisions on issues that affects them because they are the ones who have the knowledgeable insights on their lived experiences on daily encounters. In the case of this study, participants responses highlighted the municipality's disdain for the recognition of this important aspect of these democratic principles. This had an impact on how the municipality delivered its services in terms of the NYP mainstreaming. Most of the participants responses alluded to this challenge in this way:

"You know, it is so disappointing that you are asking me about the policy that the municipality has not communicated to us or even implemented it to benefit us. You know our municipality is so generous to other people who come here to seek job opportunities than us. Just have a look at what is happening in our areas. Our areas today look filthy despite that there so many youths that are not working that can be used to clean our areas to regain its former glory.

This has a negative bearing on how the municipality conducts its business when considering what the SST espouses in relation to youth empowerment engagements. The SST foregrounds participatory governance as one of the theoretical groundings which ingrains participatory decision-making. Although the normative and empirical case for greater participation has been cogently made, Richardson et al (2019) posit that citizen participation has been advocated across contexts and regime types, in more democratic as well as more authoritarian systems. In this case, Richardson et al. (2019) passionately believe that the agreement with this proposition provide a greater diversity of types of expertise that ought to be brought to bear on complex policy problems. However, Richardson et al. (2019) further argue that behind these purported benefits of participatory processes in governance, it has been noted that there will always be misunderstandings, disagreements, misplaced idealism, and failed processes experienced at local governance level when policies and programmes are idealised. This is so because of political

opportunism as the study has unearthed during its execution with the NYP policy implementers as well as with the cohort of the youth in the CoE catchment areas. To disentangle the complexity of policy mainstreaming challenges, Stewart et al (2001) postulate that it is always noted that public policies always produce what was not planned for in the conceptualisation phase. This is so because of various policy actors and governance structures that hold varying perspectives and interest on the NYP policy mainstreaming and implementation outcomes. The interconnectedness of these factors in the NYP policy mainstreaming advocates for the recognition of the contribution SST to disentangle the complex nature of policy implementation especially in the local governance context. This complexity is exacerbated by the political instability on the successful implementation of the NYP in the CoE. This has also been cited because of a coalition government comprising of several political parties with each having its own developmental interests which might in many instances vary from the NYP aspirations. However, the debate about participatory local governance and the complexity thereof, fails to reflect and explicitly articulate some of these realities.

6.2.3 An understanding of what can be attested from the NYP mainstreaming and implementation by the CoE.

On this issue, participants responses denoted varying responses with some alluding that there is nothing palpable of the mainstreaming of the NYP while some alluded to the fact that they have benefitted from the mainstreaming of the NYP by the CoE. These varying responses helped the researcher to distil some key facts about the mainstreaming of the NYP policy. As the issue of political opportunism has been cited in many respects while conducting this study, this could be an issue with this theme as some of the participants were aware of the NYP mainstreaming while some participants were not aware of this human developmental initiative. This can be attested by the participants responses in this way:

"I have not been invited in any of the structures that seeks to convey our role in participation in the decision-making on issues that affects us. You see, these councillors are law unto themselves. They just decide on what is best for us without involving us in the conceptualisation of these programmes. They just involve those who are known in the political circles or the gullible ones who will just rubber stamp what these councillors have already decided on about us."

The issue of disdain for inclusivity when implementing municipal programmes was a cause for concern. From the participants perspectives, the study could discern that political manoeuvring by municipal ward councillors is a cause for concern. However, some responses sought to suggest that some have benefitted from the mainstreaming of the NYP. This is portrayed by the following extract.

"As a resident of the CoE, for several years I have seen some developmental interventions geared for the youth residing with the municipality. These interventions have necessitated me to achieve a bachelor's degree in social work through the Mayoral bursary scheme. What is challenging with this, is that after completion, one finds it difficult to find work as the municipality says that it does not have sufficient funds to employ us. If, the National government could allocate more funds for this initiative to benefit more youth like me that will be great."

This excerpt shows that the CoE does mainstream the NYP policy to benefit some sections of the youth formations. However, considering that this response was not alluded by many of the participants, it could ascertain that only members of certain political parties who have proximal relationships with the structures benefit from the NYP mainstreaming.

6.3 Strengths and weaknesses of the study

6.3.1 Strengths of the study

The study met the purpose set out at the beginning of the study. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the key structures, systems and processes by exploring and examining how the CoE in Gauteng Province implement these to mainstream the National Youth Policy (NYP). The study contributed to the existing knowledge regarding the mainstreaming of the NYP. The study elicited varying perceptions regarding this phenomenon as it was central to the study and became the centre of focus in both the individual semi-structured interviews and the qualitative survey interviews. The use of these two data collection methods were central in achieving the purpose of the study. One of the strengths that the study achieved was to unearth the deficiencies in the mainstreaming of the NYP in the CoE.

The outcomes of this may be a precursor to the changes in the way the CoE mainstream its developmental programmes. Although the study was conducted during the period where most of the political parties are gearing for the upcoming national elections, this did not temper with the conduction of the study. This was anticipated beforehand, and the researcher planned accordingly. The study was able to reach its targeted population despite that the study investigated a sensitive topic which could have raised emotions for some participants.

6.3.2 Weaknesses of the study

The study might not have reached the targeted number of participants from the identified areas because of technological challenges as the target population was the youth who were deprived of the socioeconomic

opportunities by the CoE municipality. This may have jeopardised on the purpose of the study to collect data from multiple sites to enhance the credibility of the study. For the CoE policy implementers, the study only identified three policy implementers. This may have deprived other policy implementers from other sections of the municipality as the issues that concerns the youth are managed by different departments within the municipality. This might have also interfered with the findings of the study as the purpose was to elicit a global view of how the structures, systems and processes are implemented to mainstream the NYP. Also, as the study used the qualitative case design and utilised the non-probability sampling to identify participants for this study, this might have discriminated against other participants who were willing to participate in the study considering the purpose which the study has set for itself in the beginning. This selection criterion might have discriminated against other participants who were willing to participate in this study, but because of the inclusion and exclusion criteria that the study followed, it was impossible to include all the study population within the five identified areas.

6.4 Recommendations of the study

The study emphasised on evaluating the key structures, systems and processes by exploring and examining how the CoE in Gauteng Province implement these to mainstream the National Youth Policy (NYP). The study purpose was grounded within this, and it is therefore recommended that extensive study be conducted in other metropolitan municipalities in the Gauteng Province to corroborate the study findings and to further build arguments to inform on how the structures, systems and processes are implemented to mainstream the NYP. The engagements with participants through a qualitative semi-structured interviews and the qualitative survey interviews, provided an opportunity to establish the challenges brought about by the weak governance systems within the CoE. In this regard, the study recommends the following:

6.4.1 Recommendations for the independence of policy implementers

The study recommends that the CoE political office bearers gives space for the policy implementers to come with structures, systems and processes to mainstream the NYP within the CoE. The study also recommends that the political office bearers support the implementation of the NYP as this is a national developmental strategy for the youth., and by doing so, political parties in the governance of the municipality must refrain from using the public resources for their political manoeuvring at the expense of the intended beneficiaries. As the narratives and responses from the participants have highlighted competency deficits amongst the local governance structures within the CoE, the study therefore recommends that there should be a mechanisms developed to address the issue of political instability within the municipality as it is governed by the coalition of various consenting political

parties which have over the years bred instability in the governance of the municipality, which therefore, affected service delivery.

6.4.2 Recommendations for further research

Since the study has concluded its findings regarding how the structures, systems and processes are implemented to mainstream the NYP by the CoE, the study recommends that further investigation be conducted in this regard to broaden the scope of the findings and to enlarge the academic literature of governance concentrating on the implementation of the NYP in municipalities.

6.4.3 Recommendation for policy

The findings of the study highlight the deficiencies in the application and implementation of the NYP. Therefore, the study recommends that the policy prescripts be synergised within the different department in municipalities operational environment to necessitate effective implementation of the NYP to benefit its intended beneficiaries. Also, the study recommends that political parties in municipalities must focus on addressing human developmental challenges by mobilising resources to ensure that the benefits of the policy are met. The findings of the study may be helpful for the municipality to revisit its stance on the implementation of the NYP as participants responses highlighted the deficiencies in the application of this policy.

6.4.4 Recommendation for monitoring and evaluation

Findings from the study have illuminated on the inconsistent application of the NYP within different areas within the CoE municipality. Therefore, monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation becomes imperative. This is considered because from the national level of governance, the NYP policy was developed with the intention to cascade it down to the local governance structures in the municipalities to implement it. The findings of the study showed that monitoring and evaluation of this policy is non-existent. Therefore, it is advisable that the CoE governance structures align itself to the corporate governance as determined in the Municipal Systems Act as well as to the prescripts of good governance.

Conclusion

The study met the purpose of the study. Also, the study addressed the introduction and background of the study by discussing the background to the NYP policy from the international perspectives. To achieve the purpose of the

study, it adopted a qualitative case study with a descriptive and contextual design to answer the research questions that helped to illicit more underlying perceptions on how the structures, systems and processes were implemented to mainstream the NYP by the CoE municipality. Moreover, the study addressed the problem, the purpose and questions that guide the development of the study. The application of the purpose was consistent throughout the study. This helped to build rapport and credibility of the study. The study also addressed the literature review based on the study questions. This helped the study to achieve its purpose by eliciting more views from the international perspectives on how the youth policy is mainstreamed and challenges thereof.

The literature review also addressed the benefits and challenges of mainstreaming the NYP from the multiple perspectives to give insight on how the study could navigate this issue within the identified sites in the CoE municipality. The study discussed the Social Systems Theory (SST) that guided the study to achieve its purpose. The SST helped the study to disentangle the complexities that comes with policy mainstreaming and provide solutions for the proper conduction of the study. This was followed by the development of the methodology that was used to collect data to inform the study purpose. Data collection methods and techniques helped the study to collect rich data as the study was qualitative case study focusing on how the structures, systems and processes were put in place by the CoE to mainstream the NYP policy.

Rich data assisted the study to arrive at an analysis which was informed by the thematic analysis as it is the case with qualitative case studies. From the analysis, the participants narratives and responses were distilled to achieve the purpose of the study, and this guided the development of the study findings as well as the discussion, recommendations and conclusion of the study.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A



SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE ETHICS COMMITTEE

CONSTITUTED UNDER THE UNIVERSITY HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (NON-MEDICAL)

CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE: WSG-2024-09

PROJECT TITLE: STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES TO MAINSTREAM YOUTH POLICY IN EKURHULENI.

INVESTIGATOR	Dikeledi Mosikare
SCHOOL/DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATOR	School of Governance
DATE CONSIDERED	30 January 2024
DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE	Approved unconditionally.
RISK LEVEL	Minimal Risk
EXPIRY DATE	Date of submission of the Research Report

Rekgotsofetse Chikane

ISSUE DATE OF CERTIFICATE 13 February 2024 **CHAIRPERSON**_____
Rekgotsofetse Chikane

cc: Supervisor: Dr Kagiso Pooe

DECLARATION OF INVESTIGATOR

To be completed in duplicate and **ONE COPY** returned to the Chairperson of the School/Department ethics committee.

I fully understand the conditions under which I am are authorized to carry out the abovementioned research and I guarantee to ensure compliance with these conditions. Should any departure to be contemplated from the research procedure as approved I/we undertake to resubmit the protocol to the Committee.



15/ 03/2024

Signature **Date**

APPENDIX B

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: **Ms Dikeledi Mosikare**

City of Ekurhuleni

Cnr Cross and Roses Streets
Germiston
Private Bag X1069
Germiston 1400
South Africa
Tel: (011) 999-0796
Fax: (011) 999-1811
city.manager@ekurhuleni.gov.za
www.ekurhuleni.gov.za

Enq: **Mrs Zanele Katembo**
HOD Caretaker: IGR/IR/STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT
Zanele.Katembo@ekurhuleni.gov.za

APPROVAL FOR THE REQUEST EVALUATING THE MAINSTREAMING THE YOUTH POLICY IN SOUTH AFRICAN MUNICIPALITIES: A CASE OF THE CITY OF EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY.

The City of Ekurhuleni acknowledges receipt of your request to conduct research evaluating mainstreaming the youth policy In South African Municipalities: a case of the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality.

Permission to conduct research with the Youth Unit is granted, our Intergovernmental Relations Unit in conjunction with the Strategy Department will provide the necessary support you may require.

Yours sincerely,

APPROVED	X
NOT APPROVED	

Dr Imogen Mashazi
CITY MANAGER ACTING

03/10/2023
DATE

APPENDIX C



Consent Form

Title of project: STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES TO MAINSTREAM YOUTH POLICY IN EKURHULENI.

Name of researcher: Dikeledi Mosikare

I, ……., agree to participate in this research project.

I agree to the following:

(Please circle the relevant options below)

The research study was explained to me. I understand what this study is about.	YES	NO
I understand that I can volunteer to take part in the study.	YES	NO

I agree that the interview/focus group/other activity may be audio recorded.	YES	NO
I agree that direct quotations from my interview may be used by the researcher in their research report.	YES	NO
I agree that my participation will remain anonymous (my name will not be used by the researcher in their research report.	YES	NO
I agree that other researchers may use the information I provide in my interview activity (depending on their own ethics clearance being obtained) but my name and any personal information will not be used or passed on.	YES	NO

…… (signature)
…… (name of participant)
…… (date)

…… (signature)
…… (name of researcher/person seeking consent)
…… (date)

APPENDIX D

Interview Guide for Individual In-depth Semi-Structured Interviews looking into how the key systems, structures and processes are put in place in the CoE to mainstream the NYP.

1. How do the key systems, structures and processes mainstream the NYP in the CoE?

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2. Which stakeholders engage in putting these key systems, structures and process to mainstream the NYP in the CoE and if any, what is their role?

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3. How does the resources mobilised to support the implementation of the NYP in the CoE benefit the intended beneficiaries?

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……

APPENDIX E

Interview Guide for the Qualitative Survey for examining how the key systems, structures and processes are implemented to benefit the intended beneficiaries in the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE).

1. What is the process of ensuring the NYP mainstreaming reaches its intended beneficiaries?

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2. In your own view and experience, has the youth population benefitted from the NYP implementation programme and if any, what is the quality and sustainability of these benefits?

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3. Since the NYP has been mainstreamed in the CoE, what notable developmental changes can be attributed?

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APPENDIX F



CONSENT FORM

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE QUALITATIVE SURVEY STUDY USING QUESTIONNAIRE

A research study is being conducted by Dikeledi Mosikare. I am studying for a Master of Management (Public and Development Sector Monitoring and Evaluation) at Wits School of Governance of the University of the Witwatersrand. The title of the study: **STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES TO MAINSTREAM YOUTH POLICY IN EKURHULENI** Your participation in this study is sought to give insight on how the key structures, systems and processes are put in place to mainstream the National Youth Policy by the City of Ekurhuleni. Therefore, you are requested to complete open-ended questions provided in a questionnaire. This will take 10 to 20 minutes of your time. Participation in this study is voluntary.

If you choose not to participate in the study, you will not be penalised in any way. You are also allowed to discontinue your participation at any given time when you feel so, and you are not obliged to answer every question. The study will be conducted in a confidential manner; it is anonymous, no name will be attached to your responses and your identity will be protected. If you agree to voluntarily participate in this research study, please give your consent by clicking on the button with consent to participate and answer the following questions:

- I have had sufficient opportunity to ask questions and am prepared to participate in the study.

- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without penalty.

- I am aware that the findings of this study will be processed into a research report, journal publications and/or conference proceedings, but my participation will be kept confidential unless otherwise specified.

Then click agree after you have consented to participate.

APPENDIX G



Participant Information Sheet

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Dikeledi Mosikare. I am studying for a Master of Management (Public and Development Sector Monitoring and Evaluation) at Wits School of Governance of the University of the Witwatersrand. As part of my studies, I must undertake a research project, and the title of the study is "**STRUCTURES, SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES TO MAINSTREAM YOUTH POLICY IN EKURHULENI."** under the supervision of **Dr Kagiso Pooe.**

I am inviting you to take part in an individual semi-structured interview. Participation in this study remains voluntary and no one is forced to participate against his/her own will. Therefore, if you decide to take part, your participation in this study will last for about an hour.

With your permission I would like to record the interview using a voice recorder for purposes of analysis after the interview. Please be informed that there will be no personal costs incurred by you as result of participating in this study.

Moreover, you will not receive any direct benefits from participating in this study but there are no disadvantages or penalties if you do not choose to participate or if you withdraw from the study.

You may withdraw at any given time or not answer any question/s if you do not want to. The interview will be completely confidential, and your participation will be anonymous. Your will not be asked about your name and the responses you will give will be treated as anonymous as no name will be attached to your responses. Your information given in this study will not be shared to anyone without your consent. Should you experience any discomfort or distress at any point in this process, the interview will be stopped and be resumed another time with your permission.

Also, should you have any questions or clarifications during or after about this research, feel free to contact on the details listed below. This study will be written up as a research report which will be available online through the University library website. The data collected from this research project will be stored in a computer and will be kept for five years. With your permission the data collected from this research project may be used by other researchers. If you have any concerns or complaints regarding the ethical procedures of this study, you are welcome to contact the University Human Research Ethics Committee (Non-Medical), telephone +27(0)11 717 1408, email hrec-medical.researchoffice@wits.ac.za

Yours sincerely

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