



YOUTH

E C O N O M I C

A L L I A N C E

Electronic Communications Act Presentation

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About YEA

The Youth Economic Alliance Non-profit Company (YEA) is an entity established to drive development and the advancement of youth entrepreneurship. It champions youth entrepreneurship through targeted programmes that collectively address the unemployment problem among youth by providing them with opportunities to develop their businesses, and access to resources and linkages needed to realize their potential as young social and economic entrepreneurs.

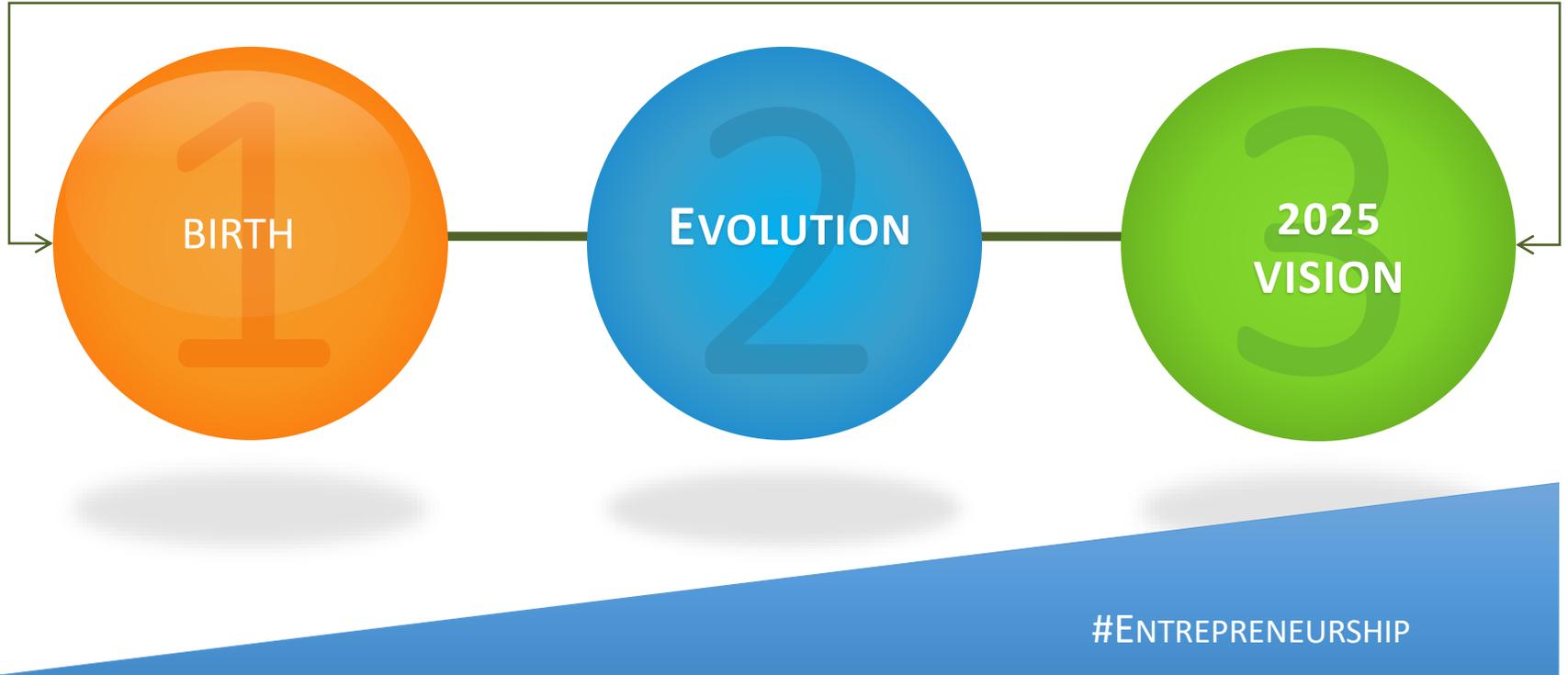
YEA distinctly has three pillars:

- Policy, Research & Advocacy on youth entrepreneurship
- Development & Implementation of Youth Entrepreneurship programmes
- Development & Project Management of youth entrepreneurship incubators

The YEA, understands that policy advocacy and lobbying is required to create a sustainable and enabling environment for youth entrepreneurship and SMME advancement and as such, aims to influence the existing policies that act as hindrances and barriers in the pace of change. The policy contributions we make today will change the landscape for the next generation of entrepreneurs.



Youth Economic Alliance - Journey



Our Vision and Mission

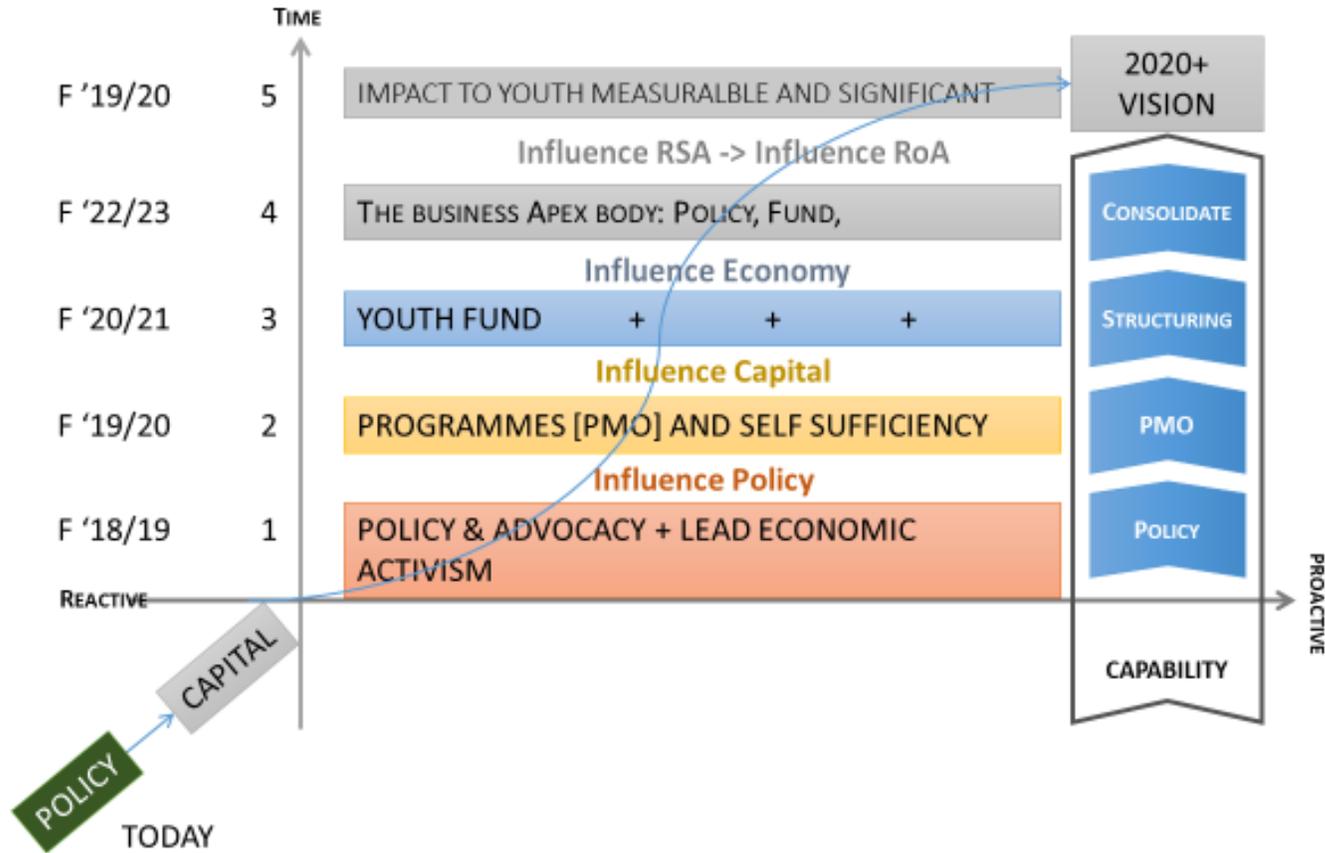
- To enable broader economic participation of **youth entrepreneurs within the mainstream formal economy of both South Africa and the world**, enabling their **access to existing and new commercial markets** while and enabling access to innovative **funding mechanisms**.
- To champion practical solutions to advancing youth economic inclusion, promoting a **conducive environment for youth SMME investment**, and drive modernized **industrialisation**.

Our Guiding Principles

- Thought leadership in the advancement of youth entrepreneurship
- Partnership, innovation and entrepreneurship; and
- Building competence, hard work and a focus on excellence
- Partnership and collaboration
- Innovation
- Pursuit of excellence



Journey to being the African apex business body For Youth



According to **Stats SA**, **South Africa's unemployment rate** is high for both **youth** and adults; however, the **unemployment rate among young people** aged 15–34 was 38,2%. This means that more than one in every three **young people** in the labor force did not have a job in the first quarter of **2018**. In the ICT space we have seen the job losses in the likes of IS, BCX, SABC and many more, this means the future is very dark for the youth hoping to be part of the ICT Sector.

In 2016 11.8 million youth were eligible to vote however only 6.3 million turned out to vote largely because the youth are marginalized and their issues are left unattended.

We are deep into the 4th industrial revolution with Government predicted 22 billion devices connected to the internet and interconnected by 2020. Recently the State Information Technology Agency launched a data centre project with Gijima and other foreign partners that already control the ICT infrastructure is South Africa. Where is the youth in all of this we ask ourselves as young people in this Country?

We must accept that the education system today is not producing work ready young people meaning we are studying to be unemployed. The knowledge on critical industries like ICT that generates R 285 billion per annum is a secret shared amongst the elite and privileged. The Spectrum and Internet services have been exclusively allocated to the privileged minority and they share today amongst themselves R 185 billion per annum and we are charged high data prices to services their wealth. We say this ends today.



The problems of youth - 2018

- High youth unemployment
- Low skills Pool
- Irrelevant Skills Pool
- Slow creation of future jobs and subsequent skills
- Low Risk appetite for youth SMME investment (State and Private)
- No clear political drive to develop youth economically



The YEA has entered into strategic alliance with the PBICT and SABISPA to ensure that the youth becomes part of this industry and that the Legislation is specific to avoid it being lost in translation.

Leading to our formal ECA Policy and Bill submissions we held various engagements throughout the country with members of all three organizations.

- 3 workshops analyzing and exploring various aspects of ECA
- A WOAN two day Indaba where hundreds of SMME's attended to finalizing our collective contributions
- 8 sector engagements
- ITU , BRICS Telecomms Minister's meet



ECA Bill & Policy Inputs

We support the Bill especially in the areas of the WOAN, Spectrum allocation, Access to land and Rapid Deployment. We are concerned about the relaxation of clauses as it assumes that the B-BBEE commission is working for our people where as this is the direct opposite, the competition Act alone is another teething issue which cannot control or assist in resolving the status quo. The high data prices and data monopoly was created with the Regulator, Competitions board and B-BBEE commission in place and yet it is assumed that they can make a difference.

Our first submission is that we need another body that will be part of the regulator, Rapid deployment steering committee and will be the Commission for ICT standards in the Country. This body must be independent and must be made up of Industry, Government and Organizations representing industry players. The body must have 40% youth representation. This body must be funded by Government and Industry.



The WOAN has a potential of creating serious economic and employment opportunities for the Youth. We fully support the establishment of the WOAN and are of the view that the legislation must be specific on the following :

1. The WOAN must be 100% South African owned.
2. The WOAN must have minimum 40% youth ownership.
3. The WOAN must have 30% women ownership.
4. The WOAN must have 5% people with disabilities ownership.
5. The WOAN must have a minimum of 80% black ownership.
6. All high demand and unused spectrum must be allocated to the WOAN and licensees requiring spectrum must procure it from the WOAN as a funding mechanism for the WOAN.
7. The WOAN infrastructure must be built by Black SMME's with 40% being allocated to the Youth.



Youth in the telco space are not able to participate due to that there are no individual licenses and spectrum allocation for them as these were allocated before they were able to start business due to their age at the time. We feel that this is unjust and must be corrected and as such we believe the legislation must ensure the following :

1. The Minister must grant special concession for the youth and Black SMMEs to have access to individual licenses and a 3 year fee exemption.
2. The regulator must assign specific spectrum to 100% youth owned Black SMMEs in the space of telecommunications. This spectrum must be issued at a zero rate exception for a period of 3 years.
3. Establish a Youth ICT Fund to support youth owned SMMEs with a key requisite of high skills development.



We support the establishment of a Rapid deployment centre as well as the Rapid Deployment Steering Committee under the Department of Telecommunications. We are concerned that the youth will not be considered if we are not part of the decision making and as such we propose the following:

1. The Department must ensure that the Rapid Deployment Centre is made up of 40% youth from top levels to the bottom levels.
2. The Steering Committee must be made up of 40% youth of representatives from the various Government Departments.
3. We want organisation like YEA, PBICT and SABISPA to be part of the Steering Committee to ensure that the youth and black people African in particular are part of the decision making and the rapid deployment.



Thinking beyond Section 25.

How can land be used to advance a digital and inclusive society?



The land question!

The current land debate cannot exclude the above land the same way it does not exclude what is under the surface. It therefore should not have been left out of the current debate.

Access to land remains a very sensitive and thorny issue. Government has critical infrastructure namely reservoirs, high sites and fibre that will be critical for us to build networks and data centres. To ensure that as the youth and black people we are part of this R 185 billion revenue generating economy we propose the following:

1. Municipalities must give special concessions and priority for way leave applications to youth owned and black SMMEs.
2. Concession must be given to youth SMMEs for access to infrastructure owned by Government and State owned entities namely towers, fibre network, POPs etc.

How else do we hope to take advantage of the 4th Industrial Revolution if we do not own the infrastructure and land it needs?



The future of Africa

Land for economic prosperity in
inter-connected communities





Thank You

