

# High youth unemployment rate in Ekurhuleni

**By: Cllr Malcolm Maifala**  
**DA Shadow MMC for Community Services**

**Ward 38 Cllr Malcolm Maifala delivered a speech in an ordinary Council meeting held on Thursday, the 25th of October 2018 on the Motion on Youth Unemployment.**

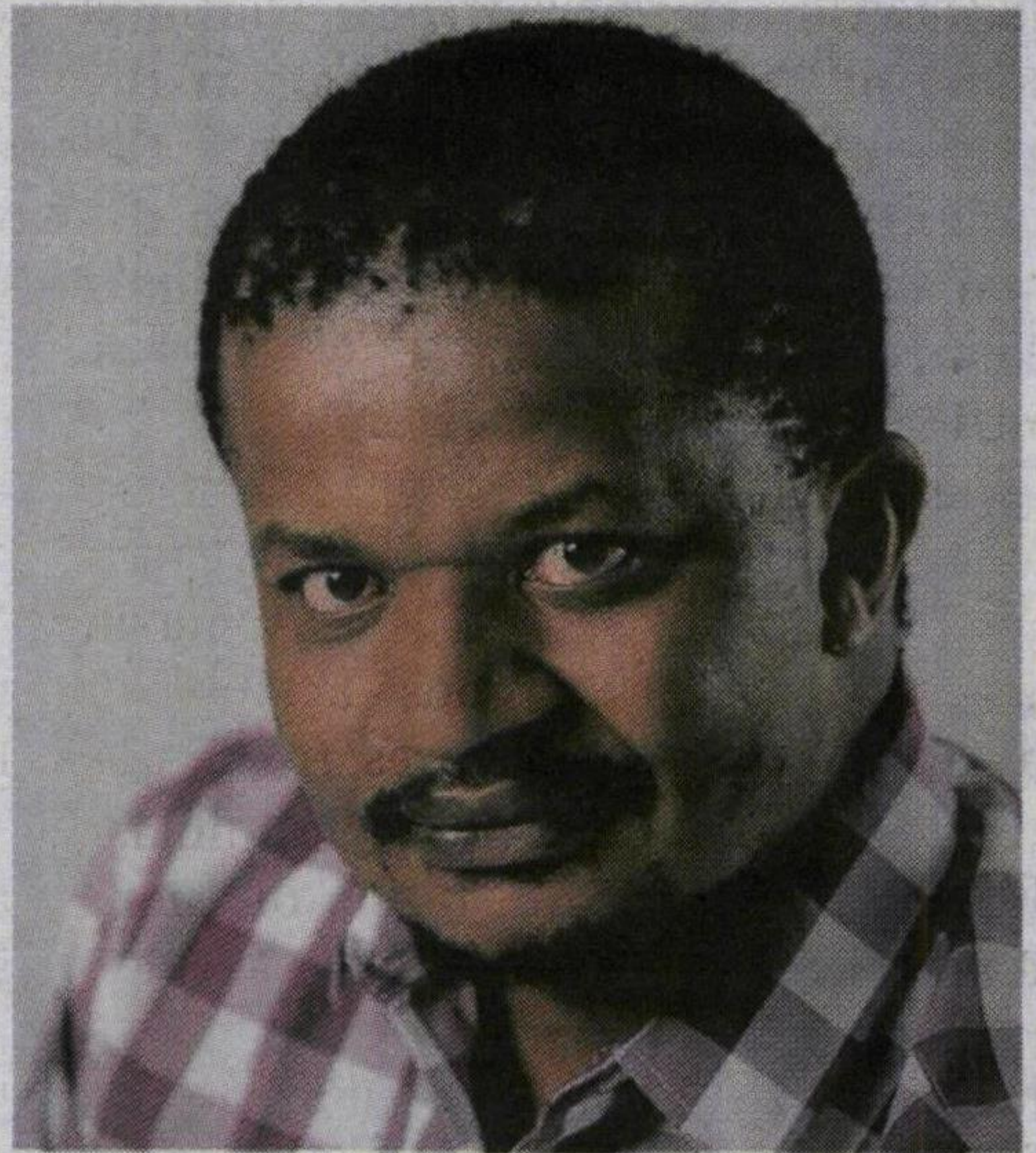
Madam Speaker and Executive Mayor,  
Allow me to finally say, "Good morning ANC!" I say good morning ANC because you have finally woken up to the reality of youth unemployment in the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE).

Madam Speaker, the Democratic Alliance (DA) welcomes this motion. Ironically, this motion further exposes the ANC's incompetence and failures, to a point where they need to petition themselves to do what they needed to be doing all along. We welcome this motion as we note that youth unemployment in the CoE is at a staggering 36.9%! General unemployment in the City has reached a shockingly high 28,8%, which is much higher than the national average. The ANC has been treating youth unemployment with soft gloves all along. While the party masqueraded the issue of land reform, where they have also failed, young people in the city have been part of a lost generation.

Madam Speaker, while the DA welcomes this motion; we believe that the CoE can create job opportunities by extending library hours. Again, the ANC-led coalition has failed to implement the motion to extend library hours in the City. With the unemployment rate in mind, the DA has spoken to numerous professionals within the Library and Information Services Sector who have confirmed that there a number of ways in which extending library hours can result in job creation for young people.

Extending library hours will not only increase reading and study times, but will also curb the high unemployment rate, by employing young people willing to work after hours to gain work experience.

Let us learn from the DA-led coalition government in Johannesburg and the DA-led government in the City of Cape Town by employing students who are eager for much needed job



opportunities as part of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Initiatives. These initiatives will bridge the gap between the City's economy and the large numbers of unskilled and unemployed people who have not yet enjoyed the benefits of economic development. The City can introduce an EPWP initiative where students gain valuable skills through assisting at libraries. On extending library hours, this will mean that the city becomes more creative in addressing the issue of unemployment in the City. Not only will it be a necessary move to deliver an essential service of education, it will be a ground-breaking move in creating job opportunities. We live in a world where getting permanent employment requires some experience, this is where extending library hours will help address the issue. Although jobs offered to the youth will be EPWP jobs, the DA believes that the skills young people will be learning will empower them to be more marketable for permanent positions. The DA believes in cities which are able to play a key role in growing local economies by exploring all avenues at the disposal of the local economy; and we strongly believe that extending library hours will play a great role in growing the local economy.