



YOUTH MARCH: The Chris Hani Region's ANC Youth League marched from the traffic circle in Cathcart Road towards Aliwal North to Chris Hani District Municipality to demand jobs

Picture:
ABONGILE SOLUNDWANA

Empower the youth, says Chris Hani ANCYL

ABONGILE SOLUNDWANA

The Chris Hani Region ANC Youth League (ANCYL) has called on the Chris Hani District Municipality (CHDM) to reinstate the budget provision of R5m to enable the youth development agenda.

The YL tabled this demand in a peaceful march to the CHDM offices on Thursday.

ANCYL regional chairman Zithulele Sigonyela, who read the memorandum, said: "The youth funding was made available when Mxolisi Koyo was mayor at CHDM. The funding should not have been stopped. We want what is due to

us with immediate effect."

The YL also demanded that 30% of young people be placed in government departments within the district and local municipalities.

"Considering Expanded Public Works Programme jobs as the only source of employment to offer to the youth must come to an end," Sigonyela said.

"We want youth to be placed in sector departments because they are the most skilled and qualified. We are ready to take over the sector department as managers and directors.

"We demand the Special Programmes Unit (SPU) manager, Nonzukiso Matiwane, to step down because she is

useless. We want the old SPU unit officials to leave."

ANCYL regional secretary, Aphiwe Mkhangelwa, said: "Youth interns must be absorbed by government institutions after serving for a year.

"Young people are not a special programme. The officials will conduct their state of the district and municipality's address soon and they will want us to clap when they allocate us funding in the SPU. We do not want to be under a special programmes unit headed by old people. We want youth directorates with capacity who will implement the resolutions of young people and their interests, which is clear

in our policy," Mkhangelwa said.

"Last year for the first time we spent June [youth month] without a single programme for young people. We see the reluctance of municipalities not to attend the office of the premier meeting which is only attended by sector departments.

"This shows we are not doing enough to fight for the youth directorate which should have its own budget to address youth demands.

"The youth and their businesses were benefiting from the R5m project. I do not know why it was discontinued. By now the amount should be increased to R10m. We want the funding to feature in

the new financial year."

"It is bad when the services of the youth programme are outsourced to adult company owners when there are young people who offer the same services, for example catering, and on construction projects where youths have the correct gradings."

Other demands included that CHDM and other municipalities should give out more bursaries for tertiary education, for young people to become direct beneficiaries and the National Youth Development offices should be opened in Komani.

CHDM speaker Koyo said they would respond within 14 days.