



The ANC Youth League marched to the Department of Education with about 200 unemployed youths yesterday to hand over their curriculum vitae as part of the league's job creation drive.

Picture: Supplied

Give us jobs – city youths

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OVER a thousand unemployed youths marched to various provincial government departments in the city yesterday to hand over their CVs as part of the ANC Youth League (ANCYL)'s job creation drive for young people.

The ANCYL "handed over" at least 30 unemployed Grade 11 and 12 pupils, graduates and postgraduates to each government department that they visited yesterday, along with their curriculum vitae (CVs).

ANCYL regional chairperson Sandiseni Sithole led a march that proceeded from the Galeshewe cir-

cle to various state institutions, as part of the league's unemployment programme and job creation initiative for young people.

"About 1 200 youths took part in the march, in search of work. We will not accept internships or learnerships. They must be given full-time, entry-level jobs by the state," said Sithole.

He stated that the provincial Department of Roads and Public Works accepted 50 unemployed youths, while the Department of Health took in 100 youths.

"The Department of Social Development took in 20 people, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture agreed to take 30, the Department of Co-operative Gov-

ernance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs took 31 youths.

"We will visit the Premier's Office, the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Environment and the Department of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism and the Sol Plaatje Municipality tomorrow (today)."

Scores of unemployed youths stormed through the gates at the Department of Education, in anticipation of being employed. The gates were later closed and they were instructed to stand on the other side of the fence.

Sithole said that, as the biggest department in the Province, the

Department of Education was obliged to employ the majority of youths.

A list was later compiled where the names of the "new employees" was read out.

The spokesperson for the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (Coghsta), Xhanti Teki, yesterday acknowledged the high unemployment rate in the Province.

"Unemployment in the Northern Cape is a dominant and stubborn fault line, with a 26.7 percent unemployment rate, where 60 percent of the unemployed are young people. Coghsta is committed to ensuring that we accommodate the demographics of the Province, especially young people, within the ambit of our available resources. Unemployment is a ticking time bomb that must be dismantled by imaginative, bold and fresh thinking that seeks to create jobs for young people," said Teki.

The spokesperson for the Office of the Premier, Monwabisi Nkompele, was not aware of any department that had agreed to provide employment without following the

necessary procedures.

"We take note of the initiative of the ANCYL in advocating the plight of the youths who were struggling with the challenge of unemployment. Government is deeply and equally concerned about young people, as was echoed by the premier in his inaugural address and State of the Province address. The premier has undertaken to do everything in his power to ensure that young people are skilled and trained so that they can be gainfully employed in the public and private sector," said Nkompele.

He pointed out that for any person to be offered employment in the public service, there first had to be a vacant and funded post.

"Everyone, regardless of their political affiliation, should be given a fair chance to apply for the position, which must be advertised and be interviewed and shortlisted based on their qualifications and expertise. Merely submitting a CV does not automatically guarantee anyone a job. We urge the ANCYL to recognise that policies must be followed according to the recruitment process."