Implementation of the National Youth Policy in the City of Tshwane

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Policy Process

- Agenda Setting
- Policy Formulation
- Policy Adoption
- Policy Implementation
- Policy Evaluation
Implementation

• When the objectives and intentions of a policy are taken and transformed to tangible services.
• To implement means to complete, fulfil, or put into effect, it is about doing, accomplishing task and achieving policy goals (Brooks, 1998: 67).
Top Down

Implementation planning

Policy Implementation

Policy formulation
Bottom Up

Policy Implementation

Implementation planning

Policy Formulation
Implementer Discretion

• “the freedom of implementers in making choices concerning the sort, quantity, and quality of sanctions and rewards on offer when implementing policy” (Tummers and Bekkers 2012).
Discretion

• Too much discretion.

• Too little discretion.
Background

- Youth make up 36.2% of the South African population (20.1M - 2016).
- The National Youth Policy (NYP) was formulated in 1997.
- Economic empowerment, education, social cohesion and health and wellbeing.
Background

- National Youth Commission (NYC), Act No. 19 of 1996;
- National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) implementer
The Problem Statement

• Successful implementation of the NYP should enhance and develop the youth’s capabilities in participating in the economic mainstream in South Africa.
Support for problem statement

• Mtwesi (2014) argues that the failure of current policies and programmes to achieve their objectives of youth development remains a substantial barrier to their full development and the development of the country.

• That is why the government has come up with a lot of policies in favour of the youth in South African businesses - though these seem not to serve the purpose. The allocated funds and schemes are not reaching the deserving youth, so the objectives are getting lost along the way (Malik, 2016).
Support for problem statement

- Makinde (2005) states that there are four factors affect the success of implementation of a policy, these factors are communication, resources, disposition or attitudes and bureaucratic structure.

- The stricter the bureaucratic structure of the implementing agency, the more red tape and less flexibility the implementer has to make decisions using their own discretion and powers (Elmore, 1979).
The general perception of this policy suggests that the limited discretion experienced by the implementers of the NYP resulted in the implementers using coping mechanisms that affected the successful implementation of the NYP, thus leaving the youth in an unfavourable positions compared to their international counterparts.
Academic Argument

• The NYP is a vital policy that is needed to improve the lives of the youth in South Africa. Understanding the effects of discretion on the implementation of the NYP will allow the NYDA to better align itself to implementing the NYP more successfully.