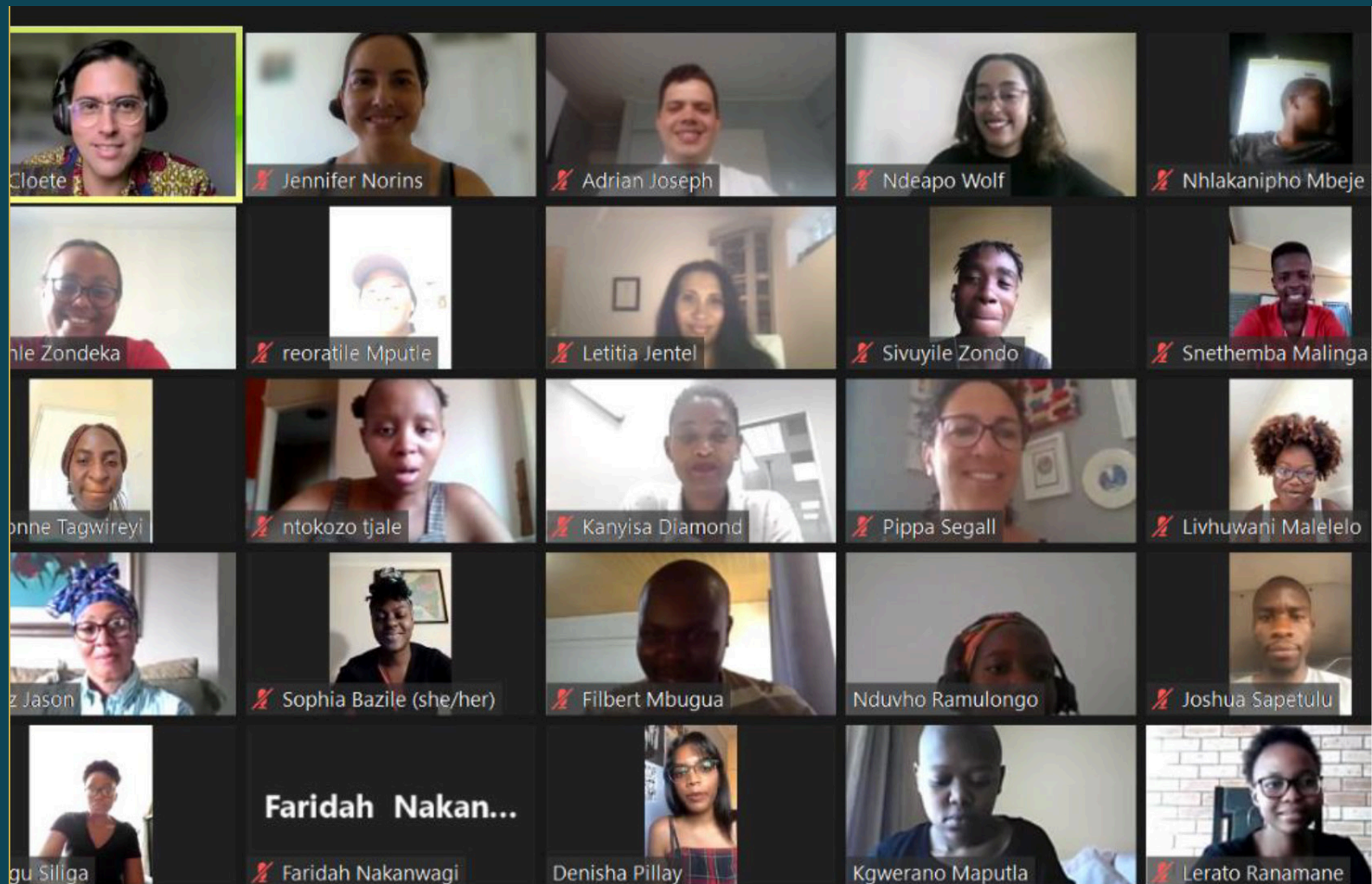


SOUTH AFRICA



Mar 2023 - Virtual

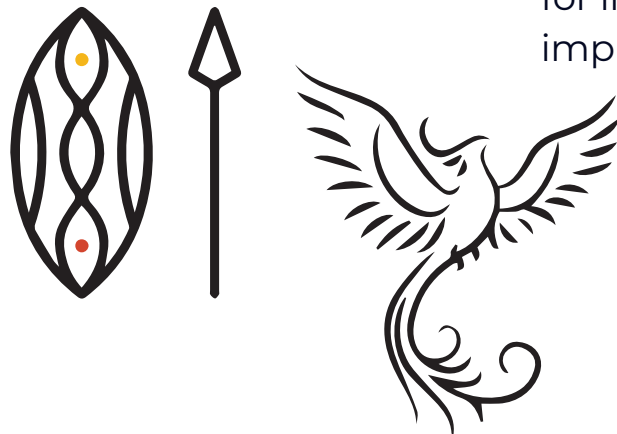


SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH FUTURES – INITIAL THINKING

INITIAL FUTURES ATTITUDE

South African youth felt they could influence the future.

Predominant images: **warriors** or fighters, and **birds** such as the phoenix and the eagle.



PROBABLE FUTURES

“No Saviours”

While there are many challenges, South African youth are leaders and activists who continue to fight for opportunities and lives of dignity. They advocate for important causes and improving their livelihoods



DESIRABLE FUTURES

“Rising Tides Lift All Boats”

Empowered youth, social and economic equality, justice, safety, security, democratic values, and an end to marginalisation based on race and identity enable prosperous futures for South Africans.



REFRAME METAPHOR

“Better Together”

South African youth explored new imaginaries through metaphors like ‘*Not a Dream Deferred, But a Dream Realised*’. **Equal access creates equal opportunities, equal experiences and finally a sustainable world for all Black people.**



*In this future world, where tokens reign
And equity is the name of the game
All are born with the same endowment
A life of plenty, with no want or confinement
No barriers to access, no walls to climb
The world is yours, at any time
With tokens in hand, a world of opportunity
For every heart and every community
From education to healthcare, housing to food
No one is left out or misconstrued
With fair exchange and a level field
Everyone has the power to yield
A world where diversity is celebrated
And differences are no longer segregated
With a spirit of compassion and empathy
Our future is one of true equity
So let us step forward, with courage and hope
To build a world where no one must cope
With the challenges of want and need
A world where abundance is the seed.*

- Poem by Filbert Mbugua Ibau



EMERGING POLICY ISSUES RAISED BY YOUTH

Education space:

- Curriculum reforms practical and skills-oriented
- Flexible vocational and career pathways

Civic space:

- More youth participation and electoral integrity
- Youth empowerment accelerators
- Public ownership, management of essential infrastructure (eg. transport, energy)

Judicial space:

- Effective and accountable judicial systems

Economic space:

- More youth enterprises
- Improved management of critical energy, water suppliers, green energy investments
- Subsidized / free data for education, training sites
- Capitalism needs to be complemented by elements of socialism, communism, and decentralisation

Rural Development Space:

- Invest in agrotech
- Development opportunities in rural areas for youth
- Support Black-owned and led SMEs and agricultural enterprises

Social Equity space:

- More awareness of gender equity, women and children, LGBTQIA+, children and disability rights issues
- Mental health awareness and services

Regional space:

- SADC countries hold SA government accountable for past and present injustices (apartheid, xenophobia)
- Human Rights space:
- Address racial, economic disparities
- Retain and strengthen Education-For-All Policy



VIABLE TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATIONS

- **Scaling Clean Energy:** South Africa's transition to clean and renewable energy is vital for addressing climate change, reducing carbon emissions, and demonstrating a commitment to a greener future.
- **Youth Voter Education:** Voter education is crucial for fostering a vibrant democracy in South Africa by empowering informed and engaged citizens to make well-informed choices during elections.
- **Data-Free Sites:** Providing data-free sites for South African youth ensures equal access to information, education, and opportunities, overcoming internet accessibility barriers imposed by economic constraints.
- **Youth Employment NGOs:** Youth Employment Accelerators, like NGOs, play a crucial role in bridging the gap between education and employment, enhancing the employability of South African youth and fostering financial independence.



SOUTH AFRICAN VISION 2035



In 2023, in the midst of rampant youth unemployment, increasing inequality, failing political system and other challenges, South Africa's future took a bold turn toward hope. Despite poor governance and struggling healthcare and education systems, seeds of progress emerged. The African Biosafety Network of Expertise and a novel development curriculum signaled monumental strides. Mobile clinics and technological innovations like the Zuri Chatbot transformed healthcare and crime reporting. Overcoming barriers to internet access, South Africa embraced competency-based education, preserving the legacy of free education and accessible healthcare. Cultural heritage thrived, connecting the past to a revitalized present. The winds of innovation ushered in a society where the youth led, education empowered, and healthcare flourished. South Africa's future, painted with vibrant strokes of progress and unity, became a harmonious symphony of promise and potential, realized through collaborative efforts and a determination to embrace change for the prosperity of all.

