

PRESENTATION TO NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WEBINAR:

UPDATE ON THE ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN (NSP)

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**women, youth &
persons with disabilities**
Department:
Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



INTRODUCTION

- The issue of mitigation and eventual ending of adolescent pregnancy is a mandate given by Cabinet to DWYPD to address as indicated in the Medium Term Development Plan(MTDP) 2025 – 2030. trends show that the pregnancies are reducing, however, it would be early celebration because the situation is still alarming.
- As a result, the Minister delegated the responsibility to the Deputy Minister Mmapaseka Steve Letsike , who then convened a **“Teenage Pregnancy Breakfast Session” on 09 July 2025** wherein a wide range of government departments were invited.
- The outcome of the breakfast session was for the decision to develop a National Strategic Plan to address the scourge, involving departments that are already constitutionally and legislatively mandated to implement interventions, with requisite budget allocations.
- Subsequent to that, DWYPD partnered with the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) and jointly convened an adolescent pregnancy National Consultative Indaba on **28 - 29 November 2025** in order to have government, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, UN organisations and others to analyse the drivers of the phenomenon and develop a plan of action to combat the scourge.

INTRODUCTION (Cont.....)

- A Task Team was established before the Indaba which continued to exist post-Indaba to guide the NSP development process.
- Three important documents that have added impetus to the development of the strategy, inter-alia, are the following:
 - (i) Learner Pregnancy – Policy Interplay: School Dropout of adolescent girls during pregnancy and in the postpartum period in selected South African provinces developed by the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE) in 2023.
 - (ii) Diagnostic Evaluation of Government response to Teenage Pregnancy in South Africa developed by the Department of Social Development (DSD) in February 2025.
 - (iii) Regulations on Managing Learner Pregnancy developed by the by the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and further engaged on in 27 March 2025.
 - (iv) Strategy to Prevent & Manage Child and Adolescent Pregnancy in Limpopo Province, launched in 2025.
 - (v) KZN Child & Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, launched in 28 October 2025 in Port Shepstone.

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES OF THE NSP

- Increased reach and impact of age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education (CGE).
- End Child Marriage.
- Reduction in pregnancy resulting from sexual abuse and coercion.
- Increased access to and uptake of contraception among adolescents who need them.
- Reduced unsafe termination of pregnancy (abortion) and related morbidity and mortality
- Improved adolescence maternal health outcomes through increased uptake of quality maternal health services.

CURRENT PROCESS

- On **21 – 22 February 2026**, DWYPD partnered with Professor Zozo Nene from the University of Pretoria and a team of medical experts on a youth outreach event in George, Western Cape on Adolescent Pregnancy.
- On **03 March 2026**, government departments met to give own perspectives post-Indaba to develop a line of march and consider information relevant to the strategy drafting team.
- On **13 March 2026**, through collaboration with the National Planning Commission (NPC) SRHR Southern Africa (SAT), a Youth Assembly was held at the DPME building in Hatfield to get the youth voice so that they give their own voice into the NSP process.
- On **31 March 2026**, DWYPD and UNFPA met the University of Cape Town's Gender, Health & Justice Research Unit because of their interest to support the NSP process.

CURRENT PROCESS (Cont.....)

- On **14 May 2026**, an Academic Webinar was held in conjunction with UNFPA, National Planning Commission (NPC) and Human Science Research Council (HSRC).
- On **30 May 2026**, DWYPD and UNFPA engaged with Limpopo provincial administration and stakeholders on their provincial strategy.
- On **22 June 2026**, DWYPD and UNFPA through collaboration with Bayer and Organon organised a Private Sector consultation.
- On **13 August 2026**, DWYPD and UNFPA organised a consultation session with KZN provincial administration and stakeholder.
- On **02 September 2026**, DWYPD and UNFPA hosted a meeting with Chief Directors to obtain an update on the NSP.
- On **07 September 2026**, DWYPD and UNFPA organised a consultation session with Northern Cape provincial administration and stakeholder, which shall be followed by Eastern Cape and Gauteng in October 2026.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINES

- **2nd Quarter 2026 (July – September)**
 - Government wide-wide consultation, to include national, provincial and local government institutions.
 - Consultation with non governmental and civil society organisations, including youth formations.
 - organised local government through the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).
 - Consultation with traditional leadership and governance and faith based organisations.

NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN TIMELINES

(Cont.....)

- **3rd Quarter 2026 (October – November)**
 - Consultation process with Government Clusters, notable SPCHD, JCPS and Economic Sector.
- **4th Quarter 2027 (January – March)**
 - Presentation to Cabinet Committee and Cabinet for approval of the NSP.
- **NB: throughout the process, the Portfolio Committee will definitely want to be briefed.**

IMMEDIATE PRIORITY

- The 1st draft of the Strategy is available and will be made available to stakeholders.
- To obtain as much input as possible from all sectors of society because this is not a government strategy only but a wider South African strategy.
- DWYPD/UNFPA requests that all resolutions passed in this session and recommendations be formally submitted to the DWYPD Adolescent Pregnancy National Strategic Plan (NSP) drafters through Sipiwo.Matshoba@dwypd.gov.za

CONCLUSION

- in conclusion, once the DWYPD Adolescent Pregnancy National Strategic Plan (NSP) is approved by Cabinet and is fully implemented, it will go a long way in factoring sexual reproductive justice because it will ensure the right of learners among other things:
 - Girls to fully access contraceptives without barriers because there would have been adolescent friendly facilities in all public health centres, not just some.
 - Boys to access condoms, in the same context as above.
 - Age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) programme would be upscaled.
 - The right to the choice of termination of pregnancy is realised and there are no back street abortions.
 - Issues of statutory rape and consequences are clear to all and laws regarding the age of marriage would have been harmonised.
 - DSD to upscale social behavioural change interventions.

Thank you



MANDATE: To lead on socio-economic transformation and implementation of the empowerment and participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities through mainstreaming, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation.