

Young people hit hard by economic slump

By Musa Mohamed

The latest job studies paint a bleak picture on the economic fate of millions of young people.

Social experts say young people who pin their hopes on finding decent work, will find the search difficult and frustrating, all this in the face of growing job losses and rising unemployment.

In Eldorado Park, young people here, as their counterparts elsewhere in the country, face the same reality,

with those fresh out of school, find themselves frustrated by lack of skills and opportunities.

Eldorado Park resident, 18-year-old Christelle Buckley, of Extension One, felt that education is the most important priority, she wants to see change in the political landscape of the country so that opportunities could open up for the youth.

"My concern is for young people like myself, we deserve quality education and a safer environment in which to grow and develop,

we need more services to benefit young people directly, which sadly is lacking," said Buckley recently.

Her comments come in the face of shocking findings, which show that young people make up a large part of the 4,2 million unemployed in the country.

This supports Buckley's call for greater opportunities and better education for the youth.

The findings show the jobless rate for 15- to 24-year-olds is 47,8%, according to Statistics South Africa.

What's more, according to findings of the Human Sciences Research Council, HSRC, close on half a million young people who leave school to enter the job market every year, only about half this number of young people stand a chance of finding a job.

The situation will only get worse in the years ahead according to experts, so those young people lucky to have the means to further their education beyond grade-12 should hold on to their luck.



HARD TIMES, no jobs.