

# Webinar launching the SADC Child and Youth

## Agency Framework

**23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2022**

**Ntokozo Nyathi**

# Youth Agency as a right

**Agency is the right that allows young people to become architects of their own future.**

This conceptualization brings about the following questions:

1. Do these institutions that work with young people trust youths to be the architects of their own future
2. Are young people capacitated to be the architects of their own future.
3. Do young people want to be the architects of their own future
4. What do young people want

# **1. Do these institutions that work with young people trust youths to be the architects of their own future?**

- Tokenization of young leaders
- Young people given pseudo powers
- Young people viewed as children
- Young people are not being met where they are

## 2. Are young people capacitated to be the architects of their own future?.

Efforts are being made but there is a lot that still need to be done especially on:

- Ensuring that informations reaches to the target population
- Re-examining how the life skills curriculum is developed and delivered
- Using innovative approaches to engage young people
- Equipping parents with knowledge and skills (us-vs-them mentality)

### 3. Do young people want to be the architects of their own future ?

Many young people strongly reported caring about climate action, human rights, civic processes and gender equality but they feel ill-equipped to turn their passion into action.

Young people feel they are:

- As problems that should be solved
- Decisions are made on their behalf at family level
- discussion with children and youths who are in school strongly indicated that while youths seem to be uninterested in civic processes, this situation is sometimes made worse by the institutions that regard them as “**children who should not be disturbed**”.

*“This One primary school child expressed that he was chosen to be a prefect at his school but the parents told the child to decline the appointment as this will derail his focus”*

## 4. What do young people want to see as a process for achieving change.?

- Youth-led development
- Want to be met where they are- its not enough to prepare young people to see and interact with the world differently but there is also a need to prepare the world to see and interact with the young people differently
- Young people need a world where schools, cities, families, communities, governments, non-profits and private sector works together **NOT** only to value young people but **MEANINGFULLY** seek their input.