



"... June 16th 1976 in Soweto has played a significant role in inspiring generations of young people in the anti-apartheid struggle to take action – even at the expense of sacrificing their lives. The killing of Hector Pieterse is today firmly etched in the annals of liberation history along with other bold and brave young people who have sacrificed life and limb for freedom."

Deputy Minister Marius Fransman

Dear Diplomats,

June 16 – the day that changed the course of South Africa's history, was declared by government as a national holiday in honour of all the youth of South Africa who led the fight against apartheid and all forms of discrimination.

This year marked the 36th anniversary of the 1976 Soweto Uprisings and the third anniversary of the establishment of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). South Africa is one of the few countries in Africa that has an agency responsible for youth development. The NYDA enhances the participation of young people in the economy through targeted and integrated programmes with the focus on career, skills, job and entrepreneurship development.

On 15 June 2012, DIRCO hosted a Youth Day event under the theme, "Youth Uniting for Economic Diplomacy". DIRCO also participated in the NYDA Youth Train initiative aimed at raising awareness and provided a platform for youth to engage with key stakeholders and communities on youth development issues. The train travelled across the country's nine provinces aimed at educating rural youth about NYDA products and services. It also allowed the private sector, the public sector as well as civil society to share important information and opportunities with rural youth.

Youth Month was commemorated and celebrated under the theme: "Together We Can Do More to Build Infrastructure and Fight Youth Unemployment, Poverty and Inequality", which included a subtheme of "Youth Uniting for Economic Freedom". Government declared 2011 and beyond as the year of job creation through meaningful economic transformation and inclusive growth. In accelerating and providing a catalyst to realising government's drive for job creation and in meeting the five priorities of government, President Jacob Zuma invited the nation to partner with government in a massive infrastructure development drive that is a bold initiative aimed at transforming the economy, laying the basis for growth and jobs.

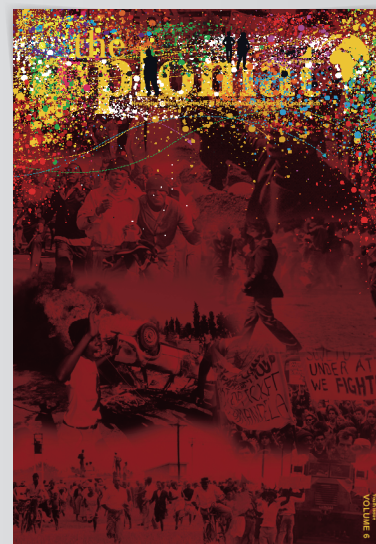
Different government departments are working together to absorb young people either through jobs or skills development. DIRCO's internship programme has been running since 2008 and has absorbed more than 30 people in the department. The programme gives unemployed graduates an opportunity to gain valuable work experience. Read more in the *Voices* section on page 10 on what 16 June means to the DIRCO interns.

The entire route walked by protesting Soweto schoolchildren on 16 June 1976 has been declared a heritage trail. Conceived as an open-air museum, the June 16 Soweto Student Trail comprises the urban environment and historic landmarks, incorporating memories of the student march which took place from various schools en route to Orlando Stadium. Currently, the trail is mapped through red bricks. It begins at Naledi High School, where one group began their march, proceeding to Thomas Mofolo High School, while also including other schools in the vicinity (Naledi, Morris Isaacson, Orlando West, Musa High and Madibane), all leading to the Hector Pieterse Memorial in Orlando West. Read more about that tragic but historic day on page 8.

Happy reading!

MG

Michelle Greeff – Editor



Then and Now: The cover depicts images of the historic 1976 uprising, while the use of colour represents the youth of today - vibrant and timeless.

Erratum



Joymary B van der Merwe
South African High Commission
Dar Es Salaam,
Tanzania

The *diplomat* team apologises for placing the incorrect image of Ms Joy van der Merwe in the Africa edition of *the diplomat*. The image of Ms Rina-Louise Pretorius was used by mistake.



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DIRCO commemorates June 16

“Together we can do more to build infrastructure and fight youth unemployment, poverty and inequality”

In commemoration of Youth Month, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) participated in several activities in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). The month was celebrated under the theme “Together We Can Do More to Build Infrastructure and Fight Youth Unemployment, Poverty and Inequality”.

DIRCO’s involvement in these activities was aimed to:

- create awareness of South Africa’s foreign policy and its role in youth development
- create awareness on career opportunities in the department
- communicate achievements on youth development
- raise awareness on available foreign business opportunities
- raise awareness on skills development opportunities offered by South African development partners
- educate the youth about Consular Services
- educate the youth about the role of the international community in the struggles of the 1976 generation.

On 15 June, the Chief Directorate: Gender hosted a Youth Day Colloquium at DIRCO themed “Youth Uniting for Economic Diplomacy”.

On the day, the panel discussions, chaired by the Chief Director Gender, Ms Vuyiswa Tulelo, revolved around two topics: “Youth Participation in Multilateral Systems, Challenges and Opportunities”; and “Economic Diplomacy and Youth Participation”.

Guest speaker, Mr Tisetso Magama, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on International Relations, emphasised the importance of youth involvement in international economic opportunities and encouraged young people to take up leadership roles in economic development. “The youth must understand their responsibility to the world. Political freedom without bread is meaningless. There is a greater need for economic transformation and economic diplomacy is one of the tools which must be used to assist youth-driven programmes,” Mr Magama said.

Another NYDA Youth Month initiative included the Youth Train, in partnership with the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa. Throughout the month of June, the Youth Train travelled to all South African



Left: Guest speaker, Mr Tisetso Magama, Right: Chief Director: Gender, Ms Vuyiswa Tulelo

provinces aimed at educating youth, particularly rural-based youth, about programmes and services offered by the public and private sector and civil society.

During all stops on the route, DIRCO distributed information brochures on the department and the implementation of foreign policy, as well as careers brochures.

Government has developed plans to enable young people in urban and in rural areas to develop themselves. The National Youth Policy 2009 – 2014 is an essential planning tool guiding the country’s approach to youth development.

On 15 June, the train arrived in Port Elizabeth for the 16 June celebrations, as well as the Exhibitions Galore Youth Fair where government departments, including DIRCO, and agencies, private companies and non-governmental organisations showcased their products. ☐



NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY (NYP) 2009 – 2014

The NYP is an essential planning tool guiding the country’s approach to youth development. The policy contains inherent commitments by government, young South Africans and society at large on interventions and services that would have to be rolled out to ensure effective and efficient mainstreaming of youth development in the socio-economic mainstream.

The drafting of the NYP entailed an extensive and rigorous process of ensuring collation of relevant and appropriate data on the status of youth, assessment of targeted youth interventions in post-democratic South Africa, and analysing the prevailing gaps in relation to new and persisting challenges that continue to plague some of the youth. From the assessments made, the team that developed the policy identified the interventions that are necessary for youth development.

As with any public policy formulation process, there was extensive engagement with stakeholders such as government departments, youth organisations, broader civil-society organisations, the National

Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) and the broader public through advertisements and publication of the policy in the public domain.

The issues raised from all these dialogues and the consultation process were incorporated in the final draft. The context and rationale for the policy are informed by the fact that, like in many African countries, a significant component of the South African population is characterised by people under the age of 35 years.

This presents ample opportunity for the youth to contribute towards the growth and development of the country.

In focusing on the needs of young South Africans, the policy highlights priority target groups that include young women, youth with disabilities, unemployed youth, aged out-of-school youth, youth in rural areas and youth at risk.

The policy further supports the key interventions that will provide for the holistic development of youth.

The four pillars upon which the policy proposes specific interventions are education, health and well-being, economic

participation and social cohesion. The recommendations that have resulted from each of these themes will feed into programme and project design.

It is hoped that this will encourage the inclusion and active participation of young people in decision-making processes, policy, programme and project implementation.

It is acknowledged that for the successful implementation of the policy, social partnerships have to be strengthened.

The best way to do so is to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the key role players and to determine the basis for such partnerships.

On the other hand, government will ensure the successful implementation of the policy through intergovernmental coordination.

Given this objective, it would also be important that capacity within the youth sector is strengthened.

It is hoped that recognition of youth work as a profession will strengthen capacity while promoting the provision of quality services.

Limitless Youth Campaign

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) launched the Limitless Youth Campaign in April 2012 to reposition the NYDA brand.

“I am Limitless” is a message with a sentiment that “you have no limits, no one can stop you if you really want it, this is

your time, there are limitless opportunities – grab them with both hands!”

With this message, the NYDA seeks to address the youth as an individual and appeal to them emotionally. “We want people to feel like the message is specifically addressing them, because we

believe they can be anything they want to be,” the NYDA said.

This campaign focuses on ordinary South Africans who want to share their journeys and experiences, some of which have been directly or indirectly inspired by their encounters with the NYDA. Source: NYDA



The history of JUNE 16

The day that changed the course of South Africa's history

It is a day violently etched on the South African collective conscience. Commemorated over 30 years later as an official holiday, it is the day that honours the deaths of hundreds of Soweto schoolchildren, a day that changed the course of the country's history. On that day, the Government and the police were caught off guard, when the simmering bubble of anger of schoolchildren finally burst, releasing an intensity of emotion that the police controlled in the only manner they knew how: with ruthless aggression. *SA History Online* puts the number of dead at 200, far higher than the official figure of 23.

Bantu education was introduced by the National Party in 1954. Before that, black people either didn't go to school or were educated in missionary schools, which fell away with the new system. Many more children were enrolled and the existing schools became extremely overcrowded – with class sizes of some 60 children – and the quality of education declined.

Fewer than 10% of black teachers had a matric certificate in 1961, according to Philip Bonner and Lauren Segal in *Soweto, A History*. The schools were poorly equipped, with no science laboratories or sports fields, and often no library. Many children dropped out of school.

In 1976, the Government introduced the compulsory use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction from Grade 7 – then Standard 5. Circuit inspectors and principals received the directive: "It has been decided that for the sake of uniformity English and Afrikaans will be used as

media of instruction in our schools on a 50-50 basis."

What this meant was that Maths and Social Studies were to be taught in Afrikaans, while General Science and practical subjects such as Housecraft and woodwork would be taught in English.

Bonner and Segal say one of the reasons for this ruling was that television was to be introduced to South Africa in 1976, and "Afrikaans-speaking conservatives feared that it would strengthen the position and status of English in the country". It was also felt that black schoolchildren were becoming too assertive and "forcing them to learn in Afrikaans would be a useful form of discipline". Besides, the Government argued, it paid for black education, so it could determine the language of instruction. This was not strictly true.

White children had free schooling, but black parents had to pay R51 – about half a month's salary – a year for each child, in addition to buying textbooks and stationery and contributing to the costs of building schools. The disparity in the government subsidy was telling: R644 was spent on each white child, but only R42 on each black child.

Pupils, teachers and principals opposed the ruling on Afrikaans, for more or less the same reasons: teachers were ill-equipped to teach in the language, which was for

most a third language. When schools reopened in January 1976, parents and principals were unhappy – some applied for an exemption from teaching Afrikaans, saying their teachers were not qualified.

The World newspaper of 5 March reported: "Although most of the school boards have capitulated to the medium of instruction directive from the Department of Bantu Education, the teachers and principals are very dissatisfied." Tensions over Afrikaans simmered in the following months. By June, mid-year exams were approaching and pupils were getting restless. At a meeting called by student leaders on 13 June nearly 400 pupils turned up, and were addressed by 19-year-old Tsietsi Mashinini, "an extremely powerful speaker".

He suggested that the following Wednesday – 16 June – pupils gather in a mass demonstration against Afrikaans. The students decided not to tell their parents, for fear of them upsetting the plan.

One pupil, Teboho Mohapi, told Bonner and Segal that there was much anticipation for 16 June: "They would just see us walking out of class and would try to stop us, and we would tell them, 'Wait, this is our day'."

It was cold and overcast as pupils gathered at schools across Soweto on 16 June. At an agreed time, they set off for Orlando West Secondary School in Vilakazi Street, with thousands streaming in from all directions.

They planned to march from the school to the Orlando Stadium.

"By 10:30am, over 5 000 students had gathered on Vilakazi Street and more were arriving every minute," say Bonner and Segal. In total, "over 15 000 uniformed students between the ages of 10 and 20 (were) marching that day".

Once at the stadium, the plan was to agree on a list of grievances, and then possibly to march to the offices of the Transvaal Department of Education in Booyens, in Johannesburg's southern suburbs. But this didn't happen. Police formed a wall facing the pupils, warning them to disperse – an order met with resistance. Teargas was fired into the crowd and police dogs released. In the chaos, children ran back and forth, throwing stones at the police – who fired more teargas.

Bonner and Segal quote a student leading the march, Jon-Jon Mkhonza: "Students were scattered, running up and down ... coming back, running ... coming back. It was some kind of game because they were running away, coming back, taking stones, throwing them at the police ... it was chaos. Whenever the police shot teargas, we jumped the wall to the churchyard and then came back and started discussing again."

Then came the first shot – straight into the crowd, without warning. Other policemen took up the signal and more shots were fired. Twelve-year-old Hector Pieterse fell to the ground, fatally wounded. He was picked up by Mbuyisa Makhubo, a fellow student, who ran with him towards the Phefeni Clinic, with Pieterse's crying sister Antoinette running alongside.

The World photographer Sam Nzima was there to record Pieterse's last moments. "I saw a child fall down, under a shower of bullets, I rushed forward and went for the picture. The photo went around the world and Pieterse came to symbolise the uprising, giving the world an in-your-face view of the brutality of apartheid."

Then all hell broke loose. Students targeted apartheid symbols: administrative

offices, government buses and vehicles and municipal beer halls, were first looted and then set alight. By the end of the day, thick clouds of black smoke hung over the township, and the streets were littered with upturned vehicles, stones and rocks. Anti-riot vehicles poured into Soweto, roadblocks were erected at all entrances, the army was placed on alert and helicopters hovered overhead, dropping teargas canisters and shooting.

The injured pupils were taken to Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, some dying in its corridors, some dying at its gates before they could be admitted, according to Bonner and Segal.

As night fell, the unlit township became even more terrifying: blinded by the night, police simply fired into the blackness.

The students returned the fire with their own weapons: bottles and stones. The looted liquor was taking effect – people wandered the streets intoxicated, in a celebratory mood, raising clenched fists and shouting "Amandla!".

The next day revealed the carnage: dead bodies and burnt-out shops and vehicles. The clashes continued, between police and students, joined by street gangs. Violence spread to another volatile Johannesburg township, Alexandra, and then across South Africa. By 18 June, all schools in Soweto and Alexandra had been closed by the authorities.

Most of the victims were under 23, say Bonner and Segal, and shot in the back. Many others were left maimed or crippled. By the end of the year, about 575 people had died across the country, 451 at the hands of police, according to *SA History Online*. The injured numbered 3 907, with the police responsible for 2 389 of them.

About 5 980 people were arrested in the townships that year. International solidarity movements were roused as an immediate consequence of the revolt. They soon gave their support to the pupils, putting pressure on the apartheid government to temper its repressive rule. This pressure was maintained throughout the 1980s, until resistance movements were finally

unbanned in 1990. School principals were almost immediately allowed to choose their own medium of instruction, a major victory for the pupils. More schools and a teacher training college were built in Soweto. Teachers were given in-service training and encouraged to upgrade their qualifications by being given study grants. The most significant change, however, was that urban blacks were given permanent status as city dwellers. They ceased to be temporary sojourners in the cities, expected to return to the homelands, often inferior pieces of land far away from industrial centres and jobs, where they held permanent residence.

The law banning black people from owning businesses in the townships was abolished. Doctors, lawyers and other professionals were now also allowed to practise in the townships. But there was a sting in the tail of these measures: the police were given powers to detain people without trial.

The result was the detention of hundreds of people in the coming months. They were subjected to torture in a desire to confirm the Government's version of events: that the unrest was caused by a number of agitators. And thousands of young people left the country, disillusioned with the Government crackdown and harassed by the police.

They never finished their education, choosing instead to go into military camps and receive training. Some were then infiltrated back into South Africa over the next decade, to perpetrate acts of sabotage. This was part of the steady onslaught against apartheid that finally broke its back towards the end of the 1980s. Most of the exiles returned home in the early 1990s, to celebrate the birth of democracy in 1994. Lest we forget the day, there is a museum to keep the memories fresh. The Hector Pieterse Museum, in Orlando West in Soweto, is just a few blocks from where students and police first began their violent confrontation.

* The information on the history of 16 June outlined above was first published on SouthAfrica.info on 15 June 2006. ☐



Mogotsi Maleka
Consular Services

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world – former President Nelson Mandela. One may perceive Youth Month as a commemoration of the youth of 1976. The class of 1976 had a vision of an independent South Africa which

would provide all its citizens with quality education. They displayed courage and determination to ensure that their quest would be achieved.

In 1994, South Africa became a democratic country. This enabled the rectification of the past imbalances and brought opportunities to many people. Therefore, the current youth has a mandate of ensuring that somehow they live the dreams of the class of 1976 by making use of the opportunities to access education, information, youth development funds and employment. This could be achieved provided that the

youth of today has a mission and a vision. Through economic freedom, the above-mentioned aspects may be reached meaningfully. It is essential to emphasise that government is also committed to this noble cause by ensuring that all necessary programmes such as skills development, funding, information and employment are made available to the youth. The youth should therefore not channel their energy in performing unethical activities.

Youth Month should provide inspiration, a mission and a vision to achieve against all odds as it was the case with the youth of 1976.



Jeff Mamabolo
Chief Directorate: Human Resource

Youth Month may be viewed as the month in which we should all look back with pride and joy to the changes brought about by our brothers, sisters and parents, who gave up their lives in order for us, the youth of today, to have access to better education and to live in a free and non-discriminatory society. One may argue that during this month,

the nation should be mourning the death of our fellow South Africans but, I strongly recommend that we should honour them by helping one another and giving back to the community. I believe that the youth of 1976 was exercising their right for better and fair education instead of the Bantu education system of the apartheid Government.

They made their voices heard but not all of them lived to tell the story or rather reap the benefits of their hard work and sacrifices. Some were arrested, some were injured or killed and some disappeared.

As the years go by, the month of June and its 16th day are losing its meaning bit by bit. The youth of today no longer commemorate this month, and specifically

this day, with the respect and honour it deserves. Instead of celebrating the heroes and heroines of 1976, the current youth view it as an excuse to get intoxicated or to refrain from work or school, which makes the passing on of these heroes and heroines to be in vain.

Thanks to previous generations, we now have access to free and fair education, and full support from the Government.

Should one regard him/herself as an entrepreneur, there are means of assistance accessible in this regard.

Government is also willing to assist the youth financially, especially those with academic ability but who are financially deprived. All these are provided for skills development and fighting poverty.



Asithandile Mlombile
Branch: Diplomatic Training, Research and Development

South Africans know that Youth Month is celebrated to commemorate all the young heroes and heroines who rose against the apartheid regime, fighting for the right to quality education and against the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction. We acknowledge and appreciate what they did for our generation, for if they had not, we would not be where we are today.

I believe the commemoration of Youth Month is a call to action – not just for us

to sit idle and remember our fallen heroes who perished during this month, but it is about what we can do as young people to ensure that the efforts of our fallen heroes were not in vain.

How can we then take on the work, bestowed on us as the young and courageous lions to make a better living for ourselves?

It is sad to witness this month pass by like any other, without meaning, vigour, emotions and pride attached to it. We simply disregard the tremendous value this month has on the entire country.

The struggle is not the same with our generation. The youth of 1976 have fought for better education, but we have to fight for economic empowerment. Many of the youth are struggling to get employment or get funds to start up small businesses on their own.

A startling percentage of qualified youth is unemployed and cannot afford to take care of their families. One would ask the question: What went wrong? What happened to the values and standards which the youth of 1976 tried to instil in the entire country?

For me, Youth Month means striving for economic liberation by standing up and doing something for myself.

Blood has been spilled for me to get educated and now the onus is on me to carry on the good fight to better myself and thus giving all the gratitude to the heroes of the 1976 struggle for defeating an unequal education system.

They have paved the way, showing us how to stand up tall and be heard. I must do the same standing up with all my peers and fight with passion for economic freedom.



Rosie Moloto
Chief Directorate: Internal Audit

Eighteen years ago on 27 April 1994, South Africa became a democratic country. This did not occur overnight. It took years for white and black races to reach a consensus. The journey to democracy

included 16 June 1976, when the youth of 1976 refused to have Afrikaans as a medium of instruction.

Blood was spilt, lives were lost, tears were shed and 36 years down the line, here we are; honouring memories of the sacrifices our peers endured for us to enjoy the privileges which we currently have.

Youth Month strikes a chord to the youth not to take a seat but to go out there and make things happen for ourselves.

As the youth struggle paved the way for us, we must take the lead on the positive

motive they stood on. The youth need to understand that for change to happen, we need to innovate it, that everything is impossible until you make it possible. The key to put this into reality is to start by being selfless and by sharing the little information you know with others, because what is average to you can be precious to the next individual.

Let us begin the walk today, for a journey of a million miles starts with only one step, and be the limitless youth this nation needs and deserve.



Molamu Lesego
Chief Directorate: Internal Audit

Iwould like to revisit the picture when Mbuyisa Makhubo was running with Hector Pieteron in his arms towards the car with Hector's sister Antoinette Sithole. What an antagonising moment.

Youth Month celebrates the heroes who participated in the 16 June 1976 march. The month should be used as an opportunity to tell their stories in schools and use the media to ensure that our history never dies. I feel this month should be dedicated to the youth of South Africa and be a call to action to unite, be empowered and as the future of our country, strive for a common goal and a better South Africa. The youth of today should rise to the challenge and put the past behind them by understanding that there were things that had to happen

for the rebirth of South Africa. Being part of the group that toured South Africa's nine provinces on the National Youth Development Agency Youth Train Express was an eye opener. As much as some youth is evasive about the commemoration of Youth Month, others are passionate and use this month efficiently to motivate others about their stories of success. I was touched by Bloemfontein youngsters who dedicated their spare time to collect school shoes and uniform for unprivileged scholars. Let's not stop here ...



Lerato Mohale
Chief Directorate: Gender

Youth Month originated from the 1976 uprising, when the youth of the time decided to define and create their own destiny by defying the injustices of apartheid. They portrayed defiant behaviour such as vandalism (threw stones and

set fires) to express their dissatisfaction towards the malicious manner in which they were treated.

In my opinion, they managed to exhibit good communication skills and created controversy in the absence of the social media platforms of today such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social networks, as all the protests were synchronised.

These young fallen heroes of the 1976 uprising are the ones who inspire me today as I stand here as an educated, determined, passionate and motivated individual. Their courage and determination inspire me to

take the opportunities that exist and use them to fight against the hypocrisy that exists within the world today.

Their will to never give up and stand up for what is right no matter the consequence motivates me to take up the challenge of helping others who are less fortunate than me. So, to me Youth Month is about inspiration to reach greater heights, to create ideas which will change history, to burn with desire to succeed and be a better person and also to use what is available in terms of technology to grow my ideas exponentially and to help others in need.



Khaalo Selina
Chief Directorate: Human Resources

The commemoration of Youth Month is a specific time of the year during which being a youth is not an age, but a state of mind. Being a youth is vigour of the emotions and the predominance of

courage over timidity. I think of a youth as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with the freedom. Youth Month is about celebrating and honouring the memories of those whose actions sprang, not from their thoughts, but from their readiness for a responsibility to fight for my freedom.

Youth Day honours all the young people who lost their lives in the struggle against apartheid.

Being a youth is a silent message that reminds me that the time for blaming

others for my mistakes have expired and a youth without responsibility is a waste of freedom fought. My freedom should be practised with responsibility. The more freedom I enjoy as a youth, the greater the responsibility I bear towards others as well as myself.

Youth Month reminds me that my responsibility is to respect and honour the memories through healthy freedom practices. Youth character is built through experience and meeting life honestly and courageously.

National Youth Day celebrations



“Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world.” President Nelson Mandela.

The youth of 1976 understood this and it was for that reason that on this day 36 years ago, young people from communities around Soweto began a peaceful march with the intention to voice their views about the state of their education. The 16 June 1976 peaceful march was their contribution towards changing the political landscape in South Africa and eventually changing the world.

Speaking at the National Youth Day celebrations at Wolfson Stadium, KwaZakhele Township, Port Elizabeth, on 16 June 2012, the Minister in The Presidency responsible for Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Collins Chabane, encouraged the youth of today to honour the youth of 1976 not only in words but through positive deeds.

“Yours as the current generation is to take those struggles forward, informed by the conditions of today. There is no better way to confront your challenges than to confront them head on. Most importantly, you must be united as young people of all races towards your common goal,” he said.

The Minister admitted that government was aware that many challenges remained and more young people needed access to economic opportunities, quality education and skills to meaningfully participate in the economy. He outlined government’s contributions to address the plight of young people:

- Through the Mzansi Golden Economy Strategy, the Department of Arts and Culture will use the arts and culture sectors to make a contribution to create five million jobs by 2020 under the New Growth Path.
- The Department of Defence and Military Veterans, through the Military Skills Development System, continues to provide work and training opportunities to thousands of young people. This year, a total of over 6 500 recruits will be placed, with over 4 000 in the next financial year and almost 4 500 in the following year. Through the National Youth Service Programme, 20 000 unemployed youth will be recruited and turned into disciplined

and empowered young people. The programme is due to begin in 2013.

- As a contribution to government’s fight on the eradication of poverty through the creation of employment, the Department of Environmental Affairs has continued with intensified implementation of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for the environment sector. A total of 459 young people from various communities have also benefited from the departmental component of the National Youth Service. This year, the department will train 206 unemployed youth on environmental management to be placed in municipalities. An additional 500 young people are targeted in 12 identified protected areas. Another 100 young people will be trained and assisted to formulate a registered joint venture to be able to bid for the provision of services in the department.
- Through the Department of Human Settlements, the YouthBuild Project

was implemented in Ivory Park where youth and stakeholders constructed 76 houses to commemorate the 1976 youth uprisings.

- Through the Department of Higher Education, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme has ensured that loans and bursaries to poor students have been expanded substantially over the last three years, and funds made available to students grew from R2,375 billion in 2008 to R6 billion in 2011.
- Through the Department of Public Enterprises, there are currently 9 000 learners enrolled in training processes in the state-owned enterprises (SOEs), the bulk of which is related to scarce and critical skills. In total, there are over 2 200 engineering, 1 000 technicians and over 4200 artisan students. The plan is to increase artisans from SOE training facilities by 60% to 6 780 students for the coming year. Transnet plans to increase present enrolment of 500 artisans to 1 500 artisans. Eskom intends providing apprenticeships to 10 000 young people, up from 4 500, and implementing a youth programme to support about 5 000 young people to find their way into employment by 2015.

- The National Rural Youth Service Corps (Narysec) was launched in 2011 by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, with an initial 7 900 participants, of whom 4 500 have either received or are in the process of completing training in various disciplines, mainly in the construction sector. About 855 have been trained in records management, and are currently scanning and counting land claims files in all provinces; and about 80, with Maths and Geography, have been trained in disaster management, for placement in municipalities. Working in conjunction with the Department of Higher Education and Training, through the National Skills Development Fund, the department

secured an additional R190 million for the current financial year.

- The Department of Tourism has many successful social responsibility implementation programmes, with particular mention of the Young Chefs training programme, which was launched and implemented last year as part of the department’s EPWP Social Responsibility Initiative. To date, 545 young persons have graduated as chefs and 120 have already been placed with established hospitality institutes, such as hotels, bed-and-breakfast establishments and restaurants. Altogether 300 of the 545 have been enrolled for second-level training, and, owing to the success of the programme, another 500 young people have been enrolled for the first time.
- In a bid to assist youth in correctional centres, the Department of Correctional Services developed programmes and services to

enhance their opportunities for development. These include programmes for Further Education and Training for grades 10 to 12 and Higher Education and Learning. Young people are also provided with skills development programmes such as entrepreneurial, computer, vocational, and engineering skills, including National Certificate vocational programmes.

The Minister said government had been developing policies, plans and programmes to assist in the development of young people. It had received the draft of the Integrated Youth Development Strategy and *State of South African Youth Report*, produced by the National Youth Development Agency. These reports were in the process of being processed and would be presented to Parliament, he said. DIRCO participated at the National Youth Day event by distributing pamphlets to the youth explaining the department’s mission and vision as well as career brochures on opportunities on offer at the department. □

Youth participants at Wolfson Stadium in Port Elizabeth





Celebrating Youth Month in Brussels



Ambassador Nkosi with Emile Jacobs, a South African cyclist

In the spirit of June 1976, the South African Mission in Brussels dedicated the month of June to engage young South Africans representing their country in Belgium.

Four young South Africans represented South Africa at the Euro Africa Youth Summit as part of the Global Changemakers Programme. Baxolise Dlali, Gcobani Qambela, Lebogang Shilakoe and Yolanda

Oda Hendler formed part of a group of 60 who participated in the three-day summit in Brussels. The summit started on Saturday, 23 June 2012, and was aimed at giving young people a platform to discuss how they can bring about change by initiating their own projects in their communities at home.

Ambassador Nkosi met the group to commend them on their achievement and encouraged them to return to South Africa and transfer the knowledge and skills acquired during their interactions at the summit. The Mission supported a delegation from South Africa's National Youth Development Agency's programme, which took place in Brussels from 26 to 30 June 2012. The delegation's visit was part of the ongoing partnership with the Government of Flanders, Ministry of Education, Youth and Equal Opportunity in Brussels. The three-year partnership project was launched through a formal agreement

at the South Africa – Flanders Joint Commission held in November 2009 under the theme "Promoting and Upscaling Youth Volunteering in Civil-Society Organisations and the Cooperation on Youth". Ambassador Nkosi also met with Emile Jacobs, a South African cyclist who is currently a guest rider for the Belgian club Lotto Olympia Tienen for a period of three months until September. With Emile only being 19 years old, 2012 was his first year as an under 23 (U23) elite cyclist. Emile has already won a stage at the National U23 tour and received a silver medal at the recent Elite SA Track Champs as well as several other Top 5 and Top 10 positions in local elite races. In commemoration of Youth Day, the South African Mission in Brussels wished these dedicated individuals all of the best as they continue to represent the vast pool of motivated and talented youth in South Africa.



Marimba Band from East London tours Austria and Slovenia



Deputy Ambassador Titi Molaba with the Aqua Vista Marimba Band

A marimba band from the Aqua Vista Primary School near East London toured Vienna and Slovenia from 22 to 26 June 2012. This band, consisting of 10 children between the ages of 12 and 14 who come from disadvantaged communities, had 12 performances throughout Vienna and Slovenia.

The City of Vienna was the main sponsor for the Vienna-leg of the group's tour, while their visit to Slovenia was partly made possible through financial support

that was sourced from the non-profit organisation, Education Africa, by the Embassy in Vienna. Education Africa, based in Johannesburg, selects a different marimba band from a South African school to tour and perform abroad twice a year and this year the Aqua Vista Primary School was selected to tour Europe.

The Embassy in Vienna is proud to have made this tour possible!



Youth Seminar: Anti-child pornography, trafficking and youth development



High Commissioner Shope addressing the youth at the seminar

In acknowledging the importance of Youth Month, the Mission in Gaborone, Botswana, in partnership with the South African Film and Publications Board (FPB) hosted a youth seminar on 13 June 2012

at the Gaborone International Convention Centre, which focused on anti-child pornography, anti-child trafficking and youth development. Various stakeholders participated, including the departments of youth, police and tourism, youth institutions, multilateral organisations such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the United Nations Children's Fund, the diplomatic core, schools and business.

The FPB has launched a programme on fighting child pornography, trafficking and child cyber pornography. Child pornography images are part of a cycle of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Apart from the child

victim, parents and relatives are victimised as they suffer the knowledge of the abuse of their child. This activity, therefore, has far-reaching implications socially. The FPB seeks to establish joint projects and formal relations on a bilateral level with Botswana and on a multilateral level with SADC.

Their visit to Botswana also marked the beginning of talks to establish joint projects in fighting child pornography and child trafficking with Botswana and SADC.

It has been proposed that a regional summit or conference on anti-child pornography and anti-child trafficking be held as a follow-up to the seminar.



A way forward for the north-south corridor

"As we move forward, we look further than just the transport infrastructure to extend the conception of the corridor to being a developmental corridor in the true sense of the word."



President Jacob Zuma at the 27th Meeting of the New Partnership for Africa's Development Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee

Regarding the review on the North-South Corridor at the 27th Meeting of the

New Partnership for Africa's Development Heads of State and Government Orientation

Committee during the African Union (AU) Summit on 14 July 2012, President Jacob Zuma highlighted that the solutions to all the implementation challenges rested primarily with member states. "Political leadership and the championing of cross-border infrastructure projects remains a prerequisite for success. We need to take full ownership of the projects and work tirelessly individually and collectively to bring resources

and collective will to bear in moving forward." President Zuma announced the process of establishing a Project Management Unit under his direct supervision to make a difference with regard to the Presidential Infrastructure Championing Initiative. He also indicated that a North-South Corridor roadshow would be scheduled before the next AU Summit to give further impetus to the work on this area of the Initiative.

South Africa got it right this time in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Extract from a commentary by Mr Fritz Nganje, Researcher at the Institute for Global Dialogue



Deputy Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim

In the midst of escalating violence in Syria, the United Nations Security Council on 19 July 2012 failed to reach consensus on an appropriate international response to

contain the crisis. A draft resolution tabled by the United Kingdom (UK), with the support of other western countries in the council, failed to gain the endorsement of

the UNSC after Russia and China predictably vetoed it. The draft resolution was affirmed by 11 of the council's members, while South Africa joined Pakistan in abstaining from the vote.

While Pretoria's voting decisions in the council have in recent times been questionable, its decision not to vote on a text that would have threatened sanctions against the Syrian Government can hardly be faulted and demonstrates that it can take independent and rational positions without the influence of the permanent

members of the council (P5 – United States, UK, France, Russia and China)." Explaining South Africa's vote, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ebrahim Ebrahim, said South Africa deplored the violence and tremendous loss of life in Syria, which was spiralling out of control.

"I reiterate that our highest priority is to stop the killing. We feel that the only way to achieve this is through the Annan plan for a political transition," the Deputy Minister said in a statement on 20 July 2012.

South Africa reiterates its commitment to deepen relations between Africa and China

As incoming co-chair, South Africa will host the sixth Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Ministerial Conference in South Africa in 2015



President Jacob Zuma introduces the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, to Premier Wen Jiabao during the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Beijing

South Africa has pledged to cooperate and work closely with China in deepening Africa's relationship with that country and ensure

that the FOCAC strategic partnership is effectively implemented. Speaking at the fifth FOCAC Ministerial Meeting

in Beijing, China, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, said South Africa would ensure that it maintained the momentum that Egypt, the outgoing co-chair, and China had achieved over the past few years.

The Minister applauded Egypt for the work it had jointly done with China in implementing the fourth FOCAC Sharm El Sheikh Action Plan (2010 – 2012), particularly in the areas of social development,

cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and in international affairs. As co-chair, South Africa will concentrate its efforts on ensuring a greater role for the African Union Commission (AUC) in the FOCAC process, as well as maintaining close relations with the regional economic communities and the AU's flagship programme for socio-economic development, the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

