



YET NEWS

Youth Empowerment and Transformation Programme (YET)

Inspiring and empowering youths to reach their full potential/

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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The Day of the African Child Commemorations
Youth, Leadership and Development in Retrospect
Youth Advocacy and Information Dissemination
Poetry

Coordinator's Note

Young people are a force to reckon with in the struggle for transformation in Zimbabwe. However despite the crisis the country is facing, they have to stand up tall as pioneers of change and peace for their voices to be heard in issues relating to national development. YET has been actively involved in facilitating youths to play an active role in the reconstruction process in Zimbabwe. The second quarter of 2007 has been a hive of activity for YET and partner organisations. Eleven proposals were received and the proposed activities were supported by YET.

In a bid to recognize the important role played by youths in terms of leadership, six leadership programmes were implemented by YET partner organisations. Highlights of

this period include public meetings initiated and implemented by youth from Batanai and Student Christian Movement of Zimbabwe. The 16 June commemorations held in Harare revealed that the spectacular courage shown by the youth of South Africa on 16 June 1976 was an inspiration to the youths of Zimbabwe. A platform was created for the participants who were mainly winter school graduates to reflect on the political and economic crisis that Zimbabwean children and youths find themselves in the present day. Young people were motivated to be proactive and take advocacy to the grassroots.

Many thanks to the Local Reference Group (LRG) members for their immense and invaluable support to the YET Secretariat.

HIGHLIGHTS OF YET ACTIVITIES APRIL TO JUNE 2007

THE DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD COMMEMORATIONS: 14 TO 17 JUNE 2007

June 16 was declared as the day to commemorate the 1976 Soweto massacres after thousands of black school children took to the streets to protest the inferior quality of their education also demanding to be taught in their own language. This day has also become an opportunity to examine progress towards health, education, equality and security for all African children. YET in partnership with Batanai, National Youth Development Trust and Young Women Christian Association implemented a commemoration of the day of the African child. The main objectives of the commemorations were to enable youths to appreciate the relevance of June 16 and relate it to the Zimbabwean context and reunify winter school alumni. In addition the workshop also sought to devise strategies of amplifying youth voices in Zimbabwe and sharing of experiences among different YET partners.



Commemorations, Silveira House Harare

A platform was created for young people to reflect on challenges affecting them using the Freirian problem solving approach called Critical Analysis. The highly interactive sessions enabled learning and sharing of experiences among the participants. Networking was enhanced among the YET partners and winter school alumni. Young people were enlightened on the relevance of the day of the African child to the Zimbabwe's context. Youths agreed that they have an important role to play in elections and as such deliberated on how they would want the forthcoming elections to be conducted. Young people were challenged to have a culture of diversity and desist from all forms of political violence.

**Youth of Zimbabwe arise
Stand up, be counted
Release the real in you
Unleash your potential
The world is watching
Pregnant with expectations
Make it happen.
You should condemn violence
Participate in national
processes
Demand Free and Fair elections
Not Feja Feja erekitions.
Nothing for us. Without us!**

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT IN PERSPECTIVE

The presence of YET was felt in Chipinge on 13 April 2007 through the initiation of a 2006 winter school alumni. The Youth Community and Development Workshop sought to impart knowledge and skills on conflict, peace and development gained from the Winter School to rural youth and enable them to share the acquired skills and engage the community in leadership. Twenty participants attended the workshop which was the first of its kind in Chipinge as it was broad and tackled issues affecting young people. Participants were enlightened on leadership, decision making, conflict transformation, peace building, gender mainstreaming and HIV and AIDS. Marginalised rural youth and young women benefited from the leadership training. Participatory methods used enhanced participation. Youths were challenged to take a proactive role in national issues.

ZYCS implemented a Leadership Training from 17 to 19 April 2007 in Harare which was attended by ten participants. The Leadership training sought to groom better leaders within ZYCS and impart them with knowledge and expertise on better ways of resolving conflict and team building. Participants were enlightened on professional ways of resolving conflict in their organisation. Interactions among participants and resource persons enabled networking.

Twenty four youths benefited from a leadership training that was implemented by

YWCA in Honde Valley from 18 to 20 May 2007. The main objective of the training was to train youth so that they are better equipped to lead in the development of their respective communities. The active participation of young people especially young women indicated that there was an understanding of issues that were being discussed. There was a lot enthusiasm and leadership potential, especially among the young women.

In addition, Youth Alive executed a Leadership and Conflict Transformation Camp in Chimanimani from 21 to 25 May 2007. The main objectives of the activity workshop were to enhance and develop skills inherent in youths physically and mentally that promote team work and good leadership skills. Participants were exposed to positive approaches of overcoming challenges. The training enabled the nurturing of leadership as the thirty participants were enlightened on team building, effective communication, discipline and problem solving.

ZINASU was supported by YET to implement a Trainer of Trainers Leadership workshop in Harare in June 2007. The training mainly targeted the newly elected Student Representative Council (SRC) including young women. A platform was created for youth leaders to learn and share experiences on leadership.

YOUTH ADVOCACY AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Batanai held a public meeting in Masvingo on 21 April 2007. Fifty young people attended

the public meeting. The main objectives of the meeting were bring together youth to

discuss HIV and gender issues and mobilise young people for meaningful involvement in issues affecting them. A platform was provided for young people to meet and discuss freely issues relating to HIV and AIDS and gender. Sharing of ideas and learning were enhanced through the public meeting. One of the key learning points was the realisation that most youth are not free to discuss HIV and AIDS issues and as such public meetings become an alternative to share ideas.

In addition, two public meetings were held in Gweru and Masvingo through the initiation of SCMZ. The meetings sought to promote and conscientise young grassroots people to understand contemporary national issues

and participate in the resolution of the current crisis. The public meeting drew more than hundred participants from youths. The interaction of participants with panelists from different stakeholders had a high networking impact on young people in Gweru and Masvingo. This enhanced the fostering of a coordinated effort towards the resolution of the crisis. A platform was created for youths to articulate their issues and share ideas and experiences thereby learning from each other. Interaction of participants with panelists from different stakeholders had a high networking impact on young people.

Batanai published a youth newsletter on HIV and AIDS through the support of YET.

POETRY CORNER

Youths of today,
Voting is your right,
Bringing change is your choice,
It is your duty,
Influencing policy-making is your task,
Expressing your opinions is your obligation,
And the only way forward.

Teach your own fellows how to
Chop out what you hate with an ink X,
Become your own candidates of change,
Become your own election agents,
Voter apathy is foolishness,
Press forward, vote, never tire.
Never backtrack voting is your right.

I will speak,
I will condemn,
Those who pass the age of 16 without an
identity card,
Giving room to the enemy.
I applaud,
Voter education by the youths for the youths.
I support,

Workshops and road shows for voting by
youths and for the youths.
Your X is your machine gun.
Voting is the battle field.
Participating is your survival.
Vote, vote and stand to be counted.

Hhuusshh!!!!!!

By Bhekikisa Ndlovu- NYDT

PEACE BUILDING BASH

MAYO (a youth organisation based in Mutoko) implemented a Youth Peace Building and HIV Bash in Mutoko with the support of YET Secretariat. One hundred and eighty six participants attended the bash. The bash was a unique activity as it was the first ever big event initiated by youth in Mutoko. Learning and sharing experiences were enabled through dramas, speeches and poems. Youths were challenged not to be used as perpetrators of violence as they are agents of peace. Networking was enabled as the large turnout saw the active participation of different stakeholders. The presence of government officials and the local Member of Parliament was noted.

YET NOTICE BOARD

The Third edition of the Winter School will be held from 10 to 28 July 2007 in Mutare

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY YET AND PARTNER ORGANISATIONS APRIL TO JUNE 2007

Activity	Organisation	Venue
High Level YET Symposium	YET	Harare
Youth Community and Development Workshop	Christian Care	Chipinge
ZYCS Leadership Training	ZYCS	Harare
Public Meeting	SCMZ	Gweru and Masvingo
Public Meeting	Batanai	Masvingo
Newsletter	Batanai	Masvingo
Leadership Training	ZINASU	Harare
Professionalism and Leadership Programme	Youth Alive	Chimanimani
Leadership Development	YWCA	Honde Valley

For your Views and Comments

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