

ADVERTORIAL

“DECISIVE ACTION TO ACCELERATE SOCIO-ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF THE YOUTH”

APARTHEID and its discriminatory policies have left a continued legacy of inequalities among the previously disadvantaged people. Youth account for more than 60% of the South African unemployed people. These inequalities are largely affecting today’s youth in terms of education, employment, and poverty.

The June 16, 1976, students’ uprisings was not only being taught in Afrikaans, but a revolt against an overall oppressive system, economically and socially. During the anti-apartheid struggle thousands of youths were arrested and detained in jail, many children were held in adult prisons, thousands fled the country, and to date, many are still missing like Mbuyisa Makhubo the youth who carried a dying Hector Peterson after he was shot by the South African police in Soweto. The unrests spread to various parts of South Africa including the Western Cape where 12- year-old Christopher Truter from Bonteheuwel and 17-year-old Xolile Mosie from Langa became the first victims of police brutalities.

The youth continue to suffer various challenges, the most vulnerable and most affected are the poor communities and those living in rural areas. Youth therefore face high risks of being vulnerable to crime, sexual abuse, teenage pregnancies, drugs, gangsterism, physical abuse, neglect during their young life and absence of the fathers. Al Jama-ah’s leader and Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks called on government to include the important role of fatherhood when revising the White Paper on Family during this financial year. Urgent interventions are needed to restore the human dignity of our youth, not only economically but to address moral and anti-social behaviour.

We would like to see that government gives youths the opportunities to take their communities and villages out of poverty, to embrace technology and use it to take agriculture to the next level.



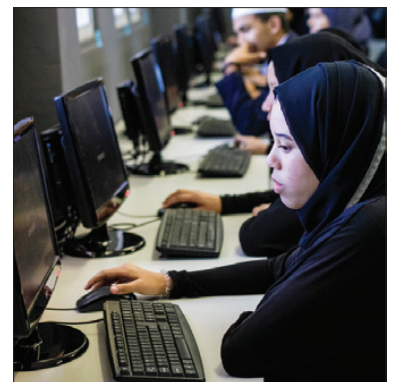
The hope that today’s generation would be living a far better and secured life compared to that of the 1970s youth, should not be far-fetched; meaningful interventions to uplift the youth must take place so they too can contribute greatly to the development of communities and the country. Government needs to act on its 2023 Youth Day theme: “Decisive Action to accelerate socio-economic opportunities to transform the lives of the youth.”

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