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PRESS RELEASE

YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

South Africa observes Youth Day on June 16th as a reminder of the significant contribution that youth have made to the history and future of our nation. The month is a chance to remember the sacrifices made by earlier generations, but it's also a chance to think about the possibilities that today's young have and the part they will play in shaping South Africa's future.

Every year on June 16, Youth Day is the focal point of the month. This day honours the 1976 Soweto Uprising, in which thousands of students rebelled against the apartheid government's mandate that Afrikaans be the language of tuition alongside English.

What started out as a nonviolent protest swiftly turned into one of the most important turning points in South Africa's independence movement. The courage displayed by the youth who participated in the rebellion proved the ability of young voices to effect change. Their activities brought apartheid's horrors to the attention of the world while highlighting the value of equality, education, and human rights.

The sacrifices made by the many young people who died or were hurt during the demonstrations are still remembered today.

Even if the issues that the South African youth face have changed over the past fifty years, many of them are still very important. For young people nationwide, access to high-quality education, fulfilling career prospects, assistance with entrepreneurship, and skill development remain crucial concerns.



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Utilising the chances provided by job programs, educational initiatives, leadership development platforms, and entrepreneurship support services.

Opportunities exist.

Taking interest of the child at the center of every decision that affects the child.

Unemployment is one of the biggest issues South African youth are currently facing. Finding work is more than just making money. Independence, financial security, real-world experience, and the chance to create a sustainable future are all benefits of employment. It enables young people to support their families and themselves, give back to their communities, and acquire the skills necessary to advance in their careers.

Unfortunately, a lack of job experience and a lack of opportunity make it difficult for many young South Africans to enter the workforce. This frequently results in a challenging loop where young people are unable to get experience because they are unemployed, while employers usually look for applicants with prior experience.



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In 2026, as we celebrate Youth Month, we recognise the legacy of the youth of 1976 by taking action in addition to remembering. Making sure that today's youth have access to opportunities that enable them to realise their full potential is one of the most significant ways to carry on their legacy.

There are several programs and services available to assist you in taking the next step, whether your goal is to establish your own business, find work, pursue additional education, or acquire new skills

For this reason, programs for employment, education, entrepreneurship, and leadership development are crucial. By giving young people the abilities, information, experience, and support they require to thrive, they aid in bridging the gap between potential and opportunity.



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Job Possibilities:

Program for Youth Employment Services (YES)

One of the biggest youth employment programs in South Africa is the Youth Employment Service (YES) Program. The program, which was created via cooperation between the public and commercial sectors, seeks to provide young South Africans without jobs with high-quality employment prospects while assisting companies in promoting youth development and economic progress.

The program was developed in response to the high prevalence of youth unemployment in the nation and acknowledges that obtaining the initial work experience required to enter the workforce is one of the main obstacles that young people must overcome.

How the YES Program Operates.

Through the program, companies in a variety of industries place young people in their organisations and generate job possibilities. Participants are exposed to actual workplaces where they acquire real-world experience, hone their professional abilities, and boost their self-confidence.

Most placements last for 12 months, giving participants valuable experience that can strengthen future job applications and improve long-term employability.



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To be eligible for the majority of YES opportunities, candidates must:

- Be in the 18–34 age range.
- Have South African citizenship.
- Have no job when you apply.
- Possess a legitimate South African ID.
- Fulfil any extra demands made by the participating employer.

Taking part in the YES Program can offer:

- A worthwhile job experience
- Increased employability.
- Being in professional work settings.
- The development of practical skills.
- Possibilities for professional networking.
- Better prospects of obtaining long-term work

The YES Program serves as an example of how the public and private sectors may collaborate to combat youth unemployment. The government funds programs that promote youth development and economic engagement, while businesses offer opportunities and guidance.



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Where to Apply:

Young people can keep an eye on opportunities via the official YES site and through participating firms.

NYDA, the National Youth Development Agency

Through job programs, skill-building projects, funding possibilities, and assistance for entrepreneurship, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) plays a vital role in assisting young South Africans.

The organization was founded to guarantee that youth have access to the tools and assistance needed to meaningfully engage in South Africa's society and economy.

Through training, mentoring, and career assistance programs, the NYDA frequently offers opportunities aimed at enhancing employability and assisting youth in getting ready for the workforce.

The organization provides programs centred around:

- Being prepared for work.
- Advice about careers.
- The ability to use digital devices.
- The growth of entrepreneurship.
- Development on both a personal and professional level.



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Young business owners have access to:

- Mentoring in business.
- Support for business planning.
- Help with market access.
- Entrepreneurship training.

To help launch or expand their businesses, qualified entrepreneurs may be eligible for grant money and business development assistance.

Other resources consist of:

- Help with CV development.
- Getting ready for the interview.
- Career counselling services.
- Resources for education.
- Assistance with entrepreneurship.

Education, Leadership, and Skill Development

Even if work is crucial, education and lifelong learning continue to be some of the best ways for young people to build their own possibilities.

Participating in leadership

programs, earning credentials, and learning new skills can lead to job opportunities, entrepreneurship, and personal development.



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Scholarships and Bursaries

Young individuals who might not otherwise have the funds to continue their studies can now more easily access education thanks to bursaries and scholarships.

These chances can help with:

- Cost of tuition.
- Lodging.
- Study guides.
- Living costs.
- Possibilities for professional growth.

Students are urged to keep an eye out for funding opportunities at institutions, government agencies, and private companies.

Internships

Students and graduates can apply what they have learned in real-world settings through internships, which offer hands-on work experience.

Advantages consist of:

- Gaining expertise in the field.
- Acquiring skills relevant to the industry.
- Growing professional networks.
- Increasing employment opportunities



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Opportunities for Fellowships

Through professional development programs, networking opportunities, mentorship, and specialist training, fellowships aim to cultivate future leaders.

A lot of fellowships concentrate on:

- The development of leadership.
 - Serving the public.
 - Starting a business.
 - Creativity.
 - The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) has an impact on the community.
- A leadership development program called the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) seeks to provide young Africans the abilities and information needed to lead successfully in their communities, organisations, and nations.

Programs for Leadership Development Participants are trained in:

- The ability to lead.
- Starting a business.
- Participation in the community.
- Management of the public.
- Business development



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Opportunities for Training

YALI provides in-person and online learning opportunities aimed at enhancing professional and leadership skills.

HP LIFE

HP LIFE is a free online learning platform that offers hands-on training in business, technology, and entrepreneurship for young Africans who show promise as leaders and a dedication to positive change.

Free Online Courses include:

- Planning for business.
- Promotion.
- Money.
- Interaction.
- Starting a business.
- Digital abilities

Upon completion, participants can obtain credentials that enhance their professional profiles and resumes.



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Digital Garage by Google

Digital skills are becoming more and more crucial as technology continues to influence the modern business. Google Digital Garage offers free online training programs to assist youth in developing these abilities.

Subjects covered include:

- Online advertising.
- Marketing on social media.
- SEO, or search engine optimisation.
- Analytics of data.
- Professional growth.
- Growth of the business

Certifications

Numerous courses provide accredited certificates that can improve work prospects and show employers that you have practical abilities.

The platform assists people in getting ready for jobs in technology, business, marketing, and entrepreneurship.



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Entrepreneurship:

South African Business Registration Process

Entrepreneurship may be a potent tool for economic engagement and financial independence for young people who wish to build their own possibilities.

Step One: Choose a Business Structure

Because it offers credibility and legal protection, the majority of small enterprises decide to register as private companies (Pty) Ltd.

Step 2: Use the CIPC to Register

The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) allows businesses to register.

Typically, the registration procedure entails:

- Setting aside a business name (optional).
- Filling out forms for company registration.
- Sending in supporting documentation.
- Making the registration fee payment.

Documents Needed

Typically, applicants need:

- A current passport or ID from South Africa.
- Contact details.
- Postal and physical addresses.
- Details about the director.
- Information that supports registration.



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Step 3: Create a Bank Account for Your Business

Financial management is enhanced and personal and business funds are kept apart with the use of a dedicated corporate bank account.

Step 4: If required, register for taxes Registration with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) may be necessary, depending on the type of business and its size.

Young entrepreneurs can get assistance by:

- The NYDA, or National Youth Development Agency.
- SEDA, the Small Enterprise Development Agency.
- Incubators for businesses.
- Programs for enterprise development.
- Mentorship programs.
- Programs for developing skills.



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The youth of 1976 showed that the youth have the ability to influence South Africa's future.

These days, young people who are pursuing education, learning new skills, joining the workforce, launching enterprises, and bringing about constructive change in their communities exhibit the same attitude.

Investing in the youth is an investment in our nation's future, as Youth Day reminds us.

Young South Africans can continue to build on the legacy of their predecessors by utilising the chances provided by job programs, educational initiatives, leadership development platforms, and entrepreneurship support services.

Opportunities exist. Taking the initial step is the hardest.



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