

DEPARTEMENT VAN STAATKUNDIGE ONTWIKKELING EN BEPLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

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Verwysing 22/1/1/3/12
Reference.....
Navrae H C Mentz
Enquiries.....

1984-07-30

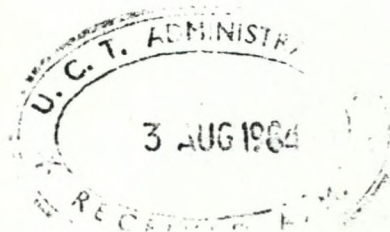
SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH YEAR : 1985

Following requests from various organisations and individuals and keeping in mind the fact that 1985 was declared International Youth Year by the United Nations, the Government decided to follow suit by declaring 1985 as Youth Year in South Africa. This decision was announced by the Honourable the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning during the debate on his Budget Vote in Parliament.

The core of the announcement is:

"The South African Government values the youth of the country highly particularly those between 15 and 24 years old and has been paying close attention to this group for a number of years. In view of the fact that 1985 was declared International Youth Year by the United Nations, the South African Government likewise decided to focus on youth's participation in development, provided that this development should take place according to South African needs and norms. It is furthermore the intention to continue some of the projects and programmes beyond 1985 by means of a long-term youth development strategy."

In the announcement it was emphasized that the Government has no doubt about the abilities, energy and enthusiasm of this group of people (15 - 24) and is convinced that these attributes are assets which can and should be used to the advantage of these young people themselves, of their communities and of the country as a whole. As a matter of fact, it would be a sign of shortsightedness should the Government not involve this dynamic group of people in the development of the country. These young people would on the other hand not meet



their responsibilities if they did not make an active contribution towards the development of the country.

The most important aims of Youth Year are to:

- Make the youth aware of their responsibilities regarding the development of the country.
- Create opportunities for constructive participation in the planning and execution of development projects.
- Get the youth to participate actively in the imaginative solving of problems and to work for peace.

Against this background the South African Youth Year should not be seen as a year during which activities will be primarily concentrated on spectacular rallies and functions in honour of Youth.

It is important to keep in mind that the actions started during 1985 will not be limited to that year but will be continued for some years to come. In this respect it can be mentioned that a start has already been made with the planning of a long-term strategy, which should be completed before the end of 1985. Youth Year should thus on the one hand be seen as the continuation of a number of actions concentrating on these young people and on the other hand as the starting point of a co-ordinated long-term strategy.

It is of equal importance to note that Youth Year and also the Youth Strategy should not be seen as the responsibility of the Government alone. The Government desires, as is the case with the development of the country in general, to get the private sector involved in this youth programme. In order to encourage participation, the Government is considering limited subsidies to organisations who want to present approved programmes as part of the Youth Year.

As far as the contribution of Government is concerned, an interdepartmental Working Committee has already been established and has been commissioned to plan the Youth Year and the long-term youth strategy, to submit proposals to the Government and to co-ordinate all government actions.

Your organisation is cordially invited to take part in the activities of Youth Year. Your participation can materialise in one or both of the following ways:

- By submitting proposals and programmes to the Working Committee. These proposals and programmes can be taken into account when planning Youth Year.
- By planning and carrying out your own programmes and projects. It would naturally be preferred if your pro-

grammes and projects were to be in harmony with the general goals as announced by the Minister. The government would consider subsidising such programmes if payment of subsidies is decided on in principle. The Working Committee will also appreciate any information on projects and programmes planned by your organisation. This will enable them to obtain an overall view of the progress of Youth Year.

In his announcement the Minister also envisaged an information conference where more details about the Government's planning for the Youth Year would be given. Such a conference will be held on 15 August 1984 at 08h00.

VENUE: Synod Hall (Sinodale sentrum) of the Dutch Reformed Church, Corner Andries and Visagie Streets, Pretoria

The most important aims of the conference will be:

1. To give some details regarding the Government's planning for Youth Year.
2. To take note of projects and programmes which are being planned and to exchange ideas.
3. To discuss the following matters:
 - 3.1 The co-ordination of projects and programmes initiated by the Government with those initiated by private organisations.
 - 3.2 The possibility of a National Youth day or even a Youth week-end.
 - 3.3 A national emblem for Youth Year.
 - 3.4 Publicity connected with Youth Year.

Your organisation is hereby invited to send representatives to this conference.

You are kindly requested to limit the number of representatives to two. It would also be appreciated if you could include a person from the age group 15-24 years in your delegation.

A tentative program is included for your information.

Would you please be so kind as to complete the attached letter of reply and to return it to:

The Head
Liaison Services
Department of Constitutional
Development and Planning
Private Bag X644
PRETORIA
0001

our co-operation in this respect is appreciated.

Enquiries can be addressed to Mr H C Mentz or Dr H P Fourie of the Directorate Social Planning, Private Bag X644, Pretoria 0001. Telephone 427115 Pretoria.

H.C. Mentz

ACT DIRECTOR GENERAL

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

1. 08h00 - 09h00 - Registration
2. 08h00 - 09h00 - Tea/coffee and light snacks
3. 09h00 - 09h15 - Welcome
4. 09h15 - 09h45 - Official opening of the conference
5. 09h50 - 10h30 - Address: Details of the Government's planning for Youth Year - principles and guidelines
6. 10h30 - 11h00 - Tea
7. 11h00 - 11h30 - Discussion
8. 11h30 - 12h30 - Address: Projects and programmes which are already being planned
9. 12h30 - 13h30 - Lunch
10. 13h30 - 14h30 - Continuation of item 8 and discussion
11. 14h30 - 15h30 - General discussion
 1. National youth day
 2. A national emblem for Youth Year
 3. Publicity
12. 15h30 - Conclusion

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

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