



YOUTH PULSE



PUSHING THE YOUTH AGENDA

YETT Winter School: The place of leadership growth

Sharon Chomuyeke

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them."
William Shakespeare.

The Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT) enrolled its fifteenth cohort of young people into its renowned flagship program, the Youth Leadership Development Course famously known as the "Winter School" which ran from the 4th to the 19th of July 2019. The course, which seeks to and build capacity of youth leaders in Zimbabwe, drew thirty-five youths from across all sectors and spheres of society; including but not limited to the civic society, business entrepreneurship, grassroots and student leadership spaces. It also aimed at increasing knowledge and understanding of youth development principles and practices among youth and youth-serving organisations.

"Through this flagship leadership program, YETT annually develops for the local and international society a cohort of vibrant and enterprising young leaders who through the years grow to assume influential positions in existing institutions or those that they start," noted the Director of YETT Rosewita Katsande.



The confirmed 35 youths arrived at local hotel in Harare on July 4, 2019 and were welcomed by YETT members. The 2019 Winter School journey began on July 5, where youth leaders set for Far and Wide Inyanga Camping Site for the team building activities which resulted into a reflection after each game.

"The experience at Far and Wide camping site was an amazing and it managed to boost my confidence to be able be a risk taker as a young leader which is what a good leader ought to be. One of the lessons I learnt from the team building session was that, a leader should be able to help his/her followers to achieve their goal hence has to follow some steps before executing any activity. A leader should be a critical thinker who is also able to strategize to achieve long term goals," noted one of the participants.

From Far and Wide Camping Site , the participants convened at the College of Business, Peace, Leadership and Governance (CBPLG) within the Africa University(AU) for the Academic Seminar where they learned from a rich faculty leadership of experts in academia. This was an intensive week packed with lectures which were very helpful to these young leaders. *“The lectures were very enlightening and exciting, As young leaders we were motivated to come out of our comfort zones and start to be innovative,”* noted one of the participants.

The youths were also encouraged to participate in the achievement of sustainable development goals which include good health and well-being, quality education and clean water and sanitation. Young leaders were enlightened about personal mastery and personal empowerment, which is personal growth, and learning which gives them vision hence be able to lead. For an individual to live a good life he or she has to be healthy hence leaders were taught on how to live healthy especially living an HIV free life. They were also familiarised with gender equality and equity which is usually confused by many people.

The young leaders were also encouraged to be entrepreneurs and were also given some tips on how to be a successful entrepreneur. Youths are the future of today hence they have to make sure that decisions made today do not destroy the environment and contributes to sustainable development. They had an opportunity to visit Mutasa area where mining activities are done.

One of the Winter School participants noted: *“The biggest lesson for me that came out of the 2019 Winter School is that, If there is something that differentiates the rich and poor is emotional intelligence. A good leader has to be able to control his emotions when working with people,”*

The second and final week saw the participants convening back in Harare for the practical sessions of the course focusing on Leadership in Practice. The Leadership in Practice practical sessions drew facilitators practicing from different sectors to educate the participants for the most part. They also involved an externship in which participants for a full working day got attached to organisations to be fully immersed in practice. This afforded an opportunity to learn through practice, and by drawing from experiences of those also practicing.



2019 Winter School during team building

By the end of the Leadership in practice sessions, participants prepared for the graduation which took place in Harare at the YETT offices on the 19th of July 2019 during the Young Leader’s Summit; which had participation of the 2019 Winter School Participants and alumni from previous years.



The Hellium Pole exercise

Understand yourself better and a rise and shine

Noreen Mapfidza

The women rise and excel programme implemented by YETT, is transforming lives of many young women in Zimbabwe through impartation of knowledge and skills on women empowerment. My participation in this programme has changed my life drastically and the major lesson that I have drawn so far from this programme is that "women should self-understand themselves and rise and shine".

Self-knowledge is crucial for the gradual progression of human beings. One need to self-question "Who, What, Why and Where am I" in life. Such questions help to discover mostly ones' physical, social, competent and inner self. This introspection is important in shaping ones' goal in life as well as in devising strategies of achieving that goal.

Without self-knowledge of ones capabilities, strengths and weaknesses, success could be a nightmare. Self-discovery instigates a foundational process upon which all other achievements can be built. It moulds ones vision, capacitates one to deal with complexity, helps one to identify herself as a change agent and instills courage in an individual. A combination of these characteristics usually builds entrepreneurial ideas that most ambitious women yearn for. Such ideas facilitate for a woman's self-reliance and enables her to take control of her destiny.

The programme transformed me immensely. I now value self-understanding and see the need to rise and shine in all spheres of life. "To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom" - Socrates. Many thanks to YETT for imparting knowledge and skills that empowers us as young women.

#iam4Peace
Youth determined to be ambassadors of peace...

“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.”

John F. Kennedy

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**Are you interested in writing articles?
YETT is calling upon interested young people to write articles to be featured in the next newsletter - The Youth Pulse.**

Email us @ progress@yetzw.net

or

call us on 263 242-496889

#iam4Peace

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Our goal must not be peace in our time, our goal should be peace at all times.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

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The Rebirth

Dephine Kufa

My eyes teared from the iffy, hideous smell of the tout's armpit. I was close enough to suffer the consequences. He kept smashing the poor lady next to him with his enormous Big Feet shoes as if we were sardines. I kept eyeing him in disgust hoping he would turn his Saul into Paul. He showed no remorse. There, he continued; carefree as the wind, flat as a star fish and destructive as the indomitable Cyclone Idai, except, he was completely not likable. Then...the lady had had enough. "Mind your feet, you are hurting me", she said politely to the tout who in turn vomited, labelling her a prostitute who should get her husband to buy her a car. Another tout, a toutish and the driver aboard all co-accused her of prostitution. Now... to think that all these had not actually paid? Coppaccabana to Westgate - Karoi bound. It's Zimbabwean to not complain. The thought of Women Rise and Excel hovered my mind...of Zypo, Gracious, Tsitsi, Bono, the Time Keeper, Amanda...Zypo! Everyone else...this... evaporate and just condense somewhere? No! The urge to protest built up in me like a rain cloud. I was ignorant like an erupting volcano, firmly telling the tout to apologise, immediately. I felt their spiritual backing as I waged this Mfecane or was it Anglo -Ndebele war against the culprits. Cucumber cool lady wistfully clutched to me for support. And there we were, SISTER TO SISTER, BALANCING FOR BETTER. She got off just before Harare Street, and the touts and the driver apologised to me. Bafflingly, one woman had even dared to silence us saying we were making unnecessary noise.

Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD) - Do the Youth have a Significant role to Play?

Owen Dhliwayo

President Emerson Mnangagwa launched the Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD) on the 17th of May 2019 at the Harare International Conference Centre and it is a platform that seeks to address conflict drivers within the Zimbabwean political environment, foster reconciliation, build a greater national consensus and social cohesion, and at the same time define a shared vision of the future.

However, this political forum should provide young people with insight into political decision-making processes and with an opportunity to actively participate in the politics of Zimbabwe. Young people offer new impulses and perspectives to politics. This applies to areas such as education policy, which directly affects young people, but also to current political issues such as security



policy, poverty, institutional accountability and socio – economic policy framework. In these questions, young people often have a different focus than the older generations, and thus they are able to contribute diverse opinions regarding the thrust of Zimbabwean politics.

“There is need to share ideas on how the county should move forward. As young people, we are very much aware that what is being done today has serious ramifications on how the future will unfold. Economic issues must be discussed by young people because they are the majority who are bearing the brunt of the current economic malaise” responded Lewis Mathuthu, the ZANU PF Deputy Secretary for Youth Affairs, responded when asked on why is POLAD important. However, the newly elected MDC A Youth Assembly Chairperson, Obey Tererai Sithole had reservations on the framework of POLAD. “We have no problem with dialogue but with both the person calling for dialogue and the framework that the dialogue is taking. As young people we need not to necessarily wait for directions from older politicians because we do have capacity to create our own alternative. Corruption and fiscal indiscipline have become so endemic that institutional accountability has eroded young people’s confidence.” He said.

The willingness to engage politically among the young people is great and a dialogue between young people and politicians is of mutual interest. The aspect of inclusion is of critical importance because exclusion is often a contentious issue and a major cause of conflict. The inclusion of young people is crucial as the political dialogue process can be a window of opportunity for addressing structural inequalities prevailing in the country.

Youth members of recently formed political parties have given much more positive responses to questions about involvement in the POLAD process. Terrance Maoneke, the NCA Secretary for Youth is hopeful that POLAD “will be an inclusive opportunity to have an influence to the current government policy on youth, this will be done through thematic committees that will be set to discuss about youth participation.

As the NCA Youths, we are participating in POLAD because we strongly believe that a progressive society must not remain in election mode but should engage and move the country forward.” noted Maoneke. Thus, it seemed that the only way to influence the decisions and the policies of the body politic will be through getting a seat at the POLAD table

Setfree Mafukidze who is the Head of Recruitment and Mobilisation for Youth Advocacy for Reform and Democracy (YARD) is of the view that it is not necessarily about political actors alone but should be inclusive outside political actors.

WINTER SCHOOL 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

