

August, 2023



SADC YOUTH NEWS

5th SADC Youth Forum, Gaborone,
Botswana



H.E. BOEMO NDU SEKGOMA IGNITES THE 5TH SADC YOUTH FORUM IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA

The Secretary General of SADC-PF and the Patron of SADC Youth Parliament Her Excellency Boemo Ndu Sekgoma ignited the 5th SADC Youth Forum, in Gaborone, Botswana. The Secretary-General attended the Forum for two days with young people, listening and making contributions to the youth agenda; her attendance was described

by young people from 16 SADC countries as encouraging, humbling, inspiring confidence, and steering zeal in young people to further participate in regional and national development processes. The Secretary General was accompanied at the forum by Mr. Sheuneni Kurasha the SADC-PF Programme Manager for Democracy and Governance and the Chief Mentor of the SADC Youth Parliament.



“We want the youth of Africa to delve into and become masters of the new industries such as cybernetics, artificial intelligence, intellectual property, or even African cinema, to cite but a few. Africa’s youth have the potential to increase rapid economic growth. This requires evidence-based youth development policies to be put in place in order to support inclusive growth.”

H.E. BOEMO SEKGOMA



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The forum which kicked off on 25 and ended on 27 July started with a Regional Conference of Youth (R-COY) under the UNFCCC and Youngo in preparation for COP-28. The Forum was themed, “Accelerating Regional Integration and Youth Participation in AfCFTA” and was attended by 114 delegates from SADC countries, representatives from East Africa, and Partners.

The Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF) is honored to partner with the Southern Africa Trust (SAT), the European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC, UN Migration (IOM), SADC-CNGO, Afro-Centric Locale, Wits Business School, CAPSI, International Idea, WWF, CJ-JT Donor Collaborative, ISNTD, Save the Children, Youth for Tax Justice Network, and the African Union (AU) among others.



The Forum was also attended by the media, young people from rural communities, the GIZ Head of Cooperation, GIZ Head of Peace and Governance Dr. Adane Ghebremeskel, World Health Organization (WHO) Botswana Office, Representatives of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (Botswana), National Youth Council of Botswana represented by the Chairperson Ms. Moitshepi Matsheng, the Secretary General of the Pan Africa



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Youth Union (PYU) based in Morocco Mr. Wiisichong Bening Ahmed among others.

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Meanwhile, SAYoF briefed H.E Angele Makombo the Deputy Secretary General of the SADC Secretariat on the

outcomes of the 5th SADC Youth Forum; the SAYoF delegation was led by the AYAP for Southern Africa Ms. Cynthia Chigwenya.

On the sidelines of the 5th SADC Youth Forum, SAYoF also held several briefing meetings with partners, including the meeting with the European Union Delegation to Botswana and SADC, their team led by Deputy Head of Mission (Deputy Ambassador) Ms. Silvia Hamrouni Bopp.



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The briefing meeting was also attended by the Secretary General of SADC-PF, Mr. Sheuneni Kurasha, UN Migration (IOM) representative Mr. Wonesai Workington Sithole, Southern Africa Trust representative Ms. Shumirai Zizhou, AYAP Southern Africa Representative Ms. Cynthia Chigwenya, Mr. Alef Meulenberg from South Africa and the SAYoF Team led by the Regional Coordinator Mr. Misheck Gondo, Regional Programs Associate Mr. Reon van Der Merwe and SADC Youth Parliament representative for Zambia Dr. Blessings Kasenge. SAYoF also exchanged notes with Thilo Schöne Resident Representative Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Botswana and his team.

The SAYoF team also paid a courtesy call to the Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Botswana to brief him on the

proceedings of the 5th SADC Youth Forum and how member states can activate the effective participation of young people in development and decision-making processes.

During her official remarks, H.E Sekgoma noted, "I wish to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all stakeholders and cooperating partners for their astounding positive involvement which has made this event a success. I look forward to their continued support and encouragement. Indeed, I have no doubt that there will be invigorated impetus of youth participation in regional integration and cooperation following this landmark 5th SADC Youth Forum."

The 5th SADC Youth Forum Declaration is expected to be out soon, a tool used by youth to engage at national, and regional level.



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