



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 forum kicked off on 25 and ended on 27 July 2022. The Forum 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 (70 female, 44 male; 6 persons living with disability) from SADC countries, representatives from East Africa, partners, and including young people from rural areas. The Secretary-General attended the Forum for two days; listening and making contributions to the youth agenda; Her attendance was described by youth from 16 SADC countries as encouraging, humbling, inspiring confidence, and steering zeal in



“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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young people to further participate in regional and national development processes. She 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. The Secretary-General noted that the youth are not only the leaders of the present, but their leadership will incrementally grow into

the future as they take more challenging positions. In her official closing speech, 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 an invigorated impetus of youth participation in regional integration and cooperation following this landmark 5th SADC Youth Forum."

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THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF YOUTH (RCOY) SCORED BIG AT THE 5TH SADC YOUTH FORUM

Climate Change has emerged as the apartheid of our time, wreaking havoc on planet Earth and leaving a lot to be desired. The crisis has resulted in several induced disasters chief amongst these being food insecurity, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, forced migration, and loss of sources of livelihoods amongst other calamities. All the aforementioned directly impact young people as the economically active age group particularly in the global South who have least contributed to it but get to bear the brunt of the crisis.

It is based on these uncertainties that the Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF) and its partner organizations under the office of the Southern Africa Climate Youth Envoy and Environment and Climate Change Cluster organized

and hosted the first-ever Southern Africa Regional Conference on Youth (R-COY) 2023 to deliberate on critical climate issues affecting young people in the region, inspired by climate activists who are successfully advancing the agenda in the region. This conference, held in collaboration with YOUNGO under the UNFCCC Process brought together young leaders from the region to strategize and discuss issues related to the urgent need to address climate change and ensure environmental sustainability in advance of the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Africa Climate Week.

The Regional Conference of Youth (RCOY) noted that Climate change is not a distant issue, it is heavily impacting our



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different communities and hence there is a dire need for young people to collaborate to address the crisis. Young people also called for continued commitments to support stronger climate actions toward implementing policies on environmental sustainability, climate financing, land-based investments, and governance. The participants at the RCOY acknowledged the work being done by the Southern Africa Climate Change Youth Envoy Ms. Laurel J. Kivuyo an office that came as a recommendation of the 4th SADC Youth Forum hosted in Johannesburg South Africa, as proposed by the representative of the Government of South Africa and Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Honourable Alvin Botes. The recommendations from RCOY have been summarized in the 5th SADC Youth Forum Declaration.

proceedings of the 5th SADC Youth For



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5TH SADC YOUTH FORUM DRIVES A YOUTH-CENTERED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT.

The 5th SADC Youth Forum which was attended by young people from 16 SADC member states and partners facilitated an open space for youth to discuss, share best practices, and give solutions to challenges faced by young people in the region. The forum had several thematic sessions, all linked to regional integration and participation of youth in AfCFTA. The forum deliberated on the following topics: Harmonizing Trade Policies in SADC, presentation on the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, workshop on Strategies for supporting Youth-Owned Businesses through the AfCFTA, Promoting Youth Equitable Outcomes in AfCFTA through Sustained Domestic Resource Mobilization and allocation., Panel on Harnessing Innovation and Digitalization to Accelerate Trade in SADC, Using Social Media as a Tool in

Regional Integration and AfCFTA Implementation, Environmental Impact of Resource Extraction & Trade Integration in SADC, Sharing Best Practices, Stories of Change from Communities on SRHR (Eswatini, Malawi, Lesotho, and Zambia), Global Compact for Migration (GCM) Acceleration (Youth Migration and Trade Session), Lessons from People of African Ancestry & Liberation Struggles, Access to Trade Related Information for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Impact of Tobacco use on youth in SADC, The role of Curriculum Changes in Entrepreneurship Development in SADC, the presentation on the role of CSOs in the implementation of the AfCFTA and the Ignite Talk: Propelling the Youth of Southern Africa to Discover their Generational Mission and Move with Decisiveness to Fulfil It." The young



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people proffered recommendations through the 5th SADC Youth Forum Declaration that will inform follow-up programs and actions.

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 International, Youth for Tax Justice Network, the African Union (AU) among others. The Forum was also attended by the media, young people from rural communities, youth Activists, the GIZ Head of Cooperation, GIZ Head of Peace and Governance Dr. Adane Ghebremeskel, World Health Organization (WHO) Botswana Office, UNESCO, SARDC, 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 Youth Union (PYU) based in Morocco Mr. Wiisichong Bening Ahmed among others.





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Hon. Karabo Matonkomane, SADC Youth Parliamentarian for Botswana

AFCTA MAY REVOLUTIONIZE THE CONTINENT'S ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE AND PAVE THE WAY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Speaking during the Official Opening of the 5th SADC Youth Forum, Honourable Karabo Matonkomane noted that, our coming together signifies the shared commitment and determination to harness the full potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area and this historic initiative holds the power to revolutionize our continent's economic landscape and pave the way for a brighter future for our youth. He noted that Africa stands at a turning point, and our youth have a pivotal role to play in shaping its destiny. The AfCFTA presents an unparalleled opportunity to foster regional unity, break down barriers, and create an environment that empowers young people to actively engage in the transformative

journey of integration and economic growth. *"In this momentous journey, we must acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. As representatives of the SADC Youth Parliament, we have a responsibility to identify these hurdles and, more importantly, develop innovative solutions to overcome them. Our actions will determine the success of this grand vision, and we cannot afford to be complacent. Regional integration and youth empowerment are inextricably linked. It is our solemn duty to ensure that every young person in the SADC region has equal access to opportunities, education, and resources. By nurturing an environment that fosters inclusivity and diversity, we will unleash the immense potential within our youth to drive Africa's progress and prosperity."* He Noted.



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H.E ANGELE MAKOMBO THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SADC SECRETARIAT BRIEFED ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 5TH SADC YOUTH FORUM

The Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF) briefed H.E Angele Makombo the Deputy Executive Secretary of the SADC Secretariat at the SADC Headquarters in Gaborone Botswana on the outcomes of the 5th SADC Youth Forum. SAYoF delegation led by the AYAP for Southern Africa Ms. Cynthia Chigwenya briefed the Secretariat on the proceedings of the forum, the forum theme, which was focused on the *“Accelerating Regional Integration and Youth Participation in AfCFTA.”* The meeting explored the outcomes of the 5th SADC Youth Forum. Her Excellency Makombo pledged her support on behalf of the SADC Secretariat to the youth agenda, noting the importance of young participation in national and regional processes as stakeholders for development.

SAYoF is committed to continuing to work with the SADC Secretariat to enable effective and sustainable youth participation, empowerment, and inclusion of young people in the region.

“Each generation is born into a world shaped by the actions and decisions of the previous generation, and they inherit both the achievements and the unresolved issues of the past.”

“It is the duty of each new generation to identify its purpose or mission within the context (gango) of its time.”

Mr. Sheuneni Kurasha, SADC PF Programme Manager Democracy, Governance and Human Rights and Chief Mentor for the SADC Youth Parliament, at the 5th SADC Youth Forum.



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SAYOF UNVEILS ITS OFFICIAL FLAG IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA

The Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF) has unveiled its official flag. The flag made its debut during the 5th SADC Youth Forum in a presentation made by Hon. Katlego Nawa, SADC Youth Parliamentarian, who was also the Head of the 5th SADC Youth Forum Planning Committee. The official unveiling comes after SAYoF called for flag design submissions. “We opened a call for youth designers to submit their innovation, we appreciate the great talent, the meaning around the flag, and the youth aspiration as defined in the Youth Development Model. We are more excited to launch this flag, This flag must unite us, this flag must be a sign that youth would like to work with the elders using side-by-side concept to development, and this flag is a call to effective youth inclusion in policy and practice; this flag reminds us as youth

that they have the responsibility to develop their region, an integrated region, a benefit to Africa, and a prosperity for all” said Hon. Katlego Nawa at the unveiling.

The colors and symbols of the flag were defined as follows:

White: Peaceful co-existence among the young people and people in Southern Africa, Youth -entered Approach to Development, and Youth Primacy as defined in the Youth Development Model.

Red: The Pan-African Approach to development, the bloodshed during the liberation struggle, and the need to continue pursuing the struggle for youth empowerment, democracy, preservation of African heritage, territorial integrity, sovereignty, cooperation, effective

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participation, youth power, inclusivity, and ownership of resources by young people.

Purple: The royalty of youth in the development of the Southern Africa region and Africa, youth as stakeholders, stockholders, change-makers, and leaders for transformation. Good fortune, and effective preservation of our natural resources such as minerals, and water bodies.

Triangle Shape: A symbol of equality, gender parity, egalitarian society, and the quest for fairness.

SAYoF Logo- (Circle) Unity in diversity, with all 16 SADC countries, different colors, one people, prosperity, everyone fits in the circle of love, and greatness.

“Each generation is born into a world shaped by the actions and decisions of the previous generation, and they inherit both the achievements and the unresolved issues of the past.”

“It is the duty of each new generation to identify its purpose or mission within the context (gango) of its time.”

~Mr. Sheuneni Kurasha, SADC PF Programme Manager Democracy, Governance and Human Rights and Chief Mentor for the SADC Youth Parliament, at the 5th SADC Youth Forum.



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EUROPEAN UNION PLEDGED ITS COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN AfCFTA.

The European Union delegation to Botswana and SADC represented by the Deputy Head of Mission, Ms. Silvia Hamrouni Bopp during the Official Opening of the 5th SADC Youth Forum pledged its commitment to Regional Integration and Youth Participation in AfCFTA through its support to SADC regional economic integration programmes. The Team Europe Technical Assistance Facility to the African Free Trade Area will support the women and youth protocol of the AfCFTA agreement with the objective of addressing inequalities of these vulnerable groups in taking advantage of trade opportunities. Speaking at the opening session Ms. Silvia noted that the EU's work for empowering young people in the region is visible in their support to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the EU is working hand in hand with SADC on a wide range of issues directly affecting the present and the future of youths in the region. It includes programs on addressing and mitigating climate change, conflict prevention,

and governance of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The EU is also supporting the development of trade in the region, industrialization, and a more conducive business environment through three programs called Support to Improving the Investment and the Business Environment (SIBE), the Support to Industrialisation and Productive Sectors (SIPS) and the Trade Facilitation Programme (EUR 48 million in total). Ms. Silvia noted that young people are key to achieving Sustainable Development Goals as the future of youths is put at risk by inequalities, climate change, and conflicts. Youths legitimately demand swifter and more courageous solutions to global challenges and want to be heard and involved.



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“The European Union is united with the Southern African Youth Forum in the belief that young people are the driving force for a positive and sustainable present and future. The youths are a growing share of the world’s population, and you deserve that the EU, SADC, and everybody aligned on this mission take responsibility to make sure that your needs and aspirations are addressed and that you can fully participate in the decision-making process.” She Noted.

and activism within the community by facilitating stronger linkages between stakeholders working towards similar objectives in the sector. SAYoF Disability Cluster has been advocating for the rights of young people with albinism, including them in programs, and engaging the governments in SADC for support and assistance with sunscreen lotions as part of the broader action to ensure effective inclusion of young people with albinism.

SAYOF DISABILITY CLUSTER LAUNCHED THE SADC NETWORK OF ALBINISM ORGANIZATIONS (SADC-NAO)

To further support the recommendation of the 3rd SADC Youth Forum on Albinism; the SAYoF Disability Cluster launched the SADC Network of Albinism Organizations (SADC-NAO) to strengthen advocacy





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SAYOF TEAM MEETS THE AMBASSADOR OF ZIMBABWE TO BOTSWANA

The SAYoF team and partners paid a courtesy call to the Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Botswana H.E Mukonoweshuro 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.

Committee Lead: Ms. Katlego Nawa, Botswana

Deputy Lead: Mr. Mbae Imadoudine, Comoros

Programme Design & Content Coordinator: Ms. Christabel C Mhiribidi, Zimbabwe

Admin, Logistics & Communications Focal Point: Dr. Blessings Kasenge, Zambia

Programme Manager (Health, Gender & Disability): Ms. Neema John Mgetta, Tanzania

Coordinator (Environment, Governance, Pan-Africanism): Ms. Releelitsoe, Lesotho

MEET THE 5TH SADC YOUTH FORUM COMMITTEE



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TAX JUSTICE
NETWORK



Southern Africa Development Community
Council of Non-Governmental
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Centre on African Philanthropy
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SADC
Parliamentary Forum
Forum Parlementaire
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