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SPECIAL EDITION: BRICS YOUTH SUMMIT 2018

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The Fourth BRICS Youth Summit



Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, addressing the BRICS Youth Summit

The Minister in The Presidency responsible for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, officially opened the Fourth BRICS Youth Summit at Zebula Golf Estate in Bela Bela, Limpopo, South Africa on 16 July 2018.

The summit was held under the theme "Radical Economic Transformation – Making the BRICS Bank for the Youth". In her welcoming remarks, Minister Dlamini Zuma urged delegates to use their "sufficient per capita resources and intellect to address the foremost challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality".

Addressing the summit, the Executive Board Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Mr Sifiso Mtsweni, appealed to

delegates to "leave this summit with a body that will oversee the implementation of our resolution and any other youth-related resolve taken by the main summit of heads of state.

"As a result, the South African delegations will hope to lobby for the Youth Secretariat within the BRICS countries and they will also advocate for the policy to ensure that there are a youth work stream in the BRICS Business Council. "We want our counterparts to take from our war cry as the South African youth, "nothing about us without us," he added.

The summit was hosted by the NYDA in partnership with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation from 16 to 18 July 2018.

Minister Lindiwe Zulu addresses Youth Summit



Minister of Small Business Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu addressing delegates at the Youth Summit

Addressing young people in 1995 on Youth Day, former President Nelson Mandela said: "At the end of the day, your progress will depend on how you apply yourselves to your work. The road to a better life demands hard work. It demands discipline, patience and responsibility ... This generation of youth stands at the borderline between the past of oppression and repression, and the future of prosperity, peace and harmony".

"In this centenary of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu, we have a responsibility to ensure that our practical actions give concrete expression to the clarion call by our former President. Indeed, young people have been at the centre of every watershed moment in the struggle against oppression and exploitation.

"Young people must continue to be a force for progressive change and radical transformation. As we approach the BRICS Summit, we continue to urge young people to recommit themselves to the historic task of being agents of change and leading the reconstruction and development of our country.

"Our BRICS membership contributes to further leveraging economic opportunities for our own development agenda, as well as that of the continent. As part of the developing world, South Africa faces the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

"Significantly, BRICS contain 40% of the world's population. With a combined Gross Domestic Product of approximately US\$15 trillion, BRICS countries account for 19.3% of gross global product; 42.7% of the world population; and has contributed more than 50% to the world economic

growth during the last 10 years. Intra-BRICS trade grew from US\$567 billion in 2010 to \$744 billion in 2017.

South Africa-BRICS trade has grown from US\$28bn to US\$35bn over the same period. Both South African exports to and imports from other BRICS countries have grown at a rate faster than South Africa's global trade, thus increasing the importance of other BRICS countries in South Africa's trade basket. Combined, the BRICS countries account for 15.4% of South Africa's global exports and 25.4% of the country's imports.

"The key focus for BRICS should be to change the structure of our trade and promote value-added trade so as to contribute to the structural transformation of our economies

"Our active participation in BRICS is in pursuit of our national interests.

"The economic benefits that will accrue through our BRICS membership cannot be over-emphasised. BRICS is, indeed, a concrete affirmation of our unyielding commitment to expand access to a better life for all."

The legacy of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

Minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba addresses the Youth Summit during the Centennial commemorations of the legacy of Nelson Mandela, 18 July 2018

"Today, 18 July 2018, Nelson Mandela would have turned 100 years old."

Born as the First World War was grinding towards its painful end, he would epitomise throughout his life the very cause for justice, human solidarity, peace, reconciliation and freedom, which at the moment of his birth was denied his people and more than half the world's population.

"When he was born in 1918, the Union of South Africa was eight years into existence, characterised as it was by an exclusive all-white pact signed at the end of the South African War of 1899-1902, wrongly named for many decades the Anglo-Boer War, in order to deny the Africans their role and accordingly their rightful stake in the spoils of the war. The Union of South Africa would both unite the then four existing independent provinces of this broad polity under the dominion of the British Empire but do so on the basis of the political exclusion and economic exploitation of the black majority; the consequences remain a very real feature of our society even to this day.

"On numerous occasions during his 67 years of struggle, he would reflect on his choice to be part of and lead the struggle of his people and, on each occasion, he came to the conclusion that he had made the correct choice.

"He knew the sacrifices his choices entailed, and that those opposed to his ideals would use every means at their disposal to thwart those ideals and try block the endless waves of the freedom struggle, and that in so doing they would not only use the most vile and vicious methods, but would seek to inflict upon their opponents and victims the most ferocious pain at a personal level.

"But on none of the occasions when they visited such ferocity on his person and family did he even once flinch or flounder. Such was his tenacity that whenever he came face to face with the brutal regime of oppression, his principles triumphed and his steadfastness reigned supreme.



The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Malusi Gigaba and Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ms Reginah Mhaule alongside Executive Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) Mr Sifiso Mtsweni, Chief Executive Officer, Mr Waseem Carrim and the Deputy Executive Chairperson of the NYDA Ms Bavelile Hlongwa will today, 18 July 2018 lead delegates of the 4th BRICS Youth Summit to celebrate the International Nelson Mandela Day.

"He would never be the first to blink in the confrontation with the regime in the firm conviction and knowledge that to do so would betray his people and suffocate the vital courage they needed to make their principled stand against the tyrants.

"It is my privilege today to stand on this rostrum to pay tribute to the memory of this icon about whom I am not so sure I am qualified to speak.

What makes this occasion even more special is the very fact that gathered here are the representatives of the youth of the countries of the South Africa whose people have determined that they shall challenge the global status quo and ensure that the world in which we live is multipolar.

"It is a special tribute to the South African people that as BRICS celebrates its first decade, it does so on our soil during the year of the centennial celebration of the birth of Nelson Mandela who belongs now to all BRICS nations and to the world.

"A rare opportunity thus presents itself for your generation to reflect on the lives, the times and struggles of a rare generation, to ponder their

feats and foibles, indeed in order not just capture the moments through which they traversed but, above it all, to examine the challenges of your time in relation to the lessons of their lives.

"If Nelson Mandela were to wake up and ask the BRICS youth, are you content with the world order in which you live, you must give him an unequivocal answer that you seek social justice on a global scale.

"To achieve that, you must get involved and participate, to demand a democratic system globally and nationally that solves poverty and achieves broad-based inclusion.

"This means BRICS youth must advocate for economies, again to refer to Stiglitz, whose performance is judged by what is happening to the well-being of most citizens, rather than an elite few.

"BRICS youth need to participate in policy debates and policy formulation processes. You need to weigh in with your perspectives, experiences and proposals to influence the policies which will shape the economy. In conclusion, you – the youth of BRICS – are not the leaders of tomorrow; you are the leaders of today."

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation officially closes the Fourth BRICS Youth Summit

The Summit hosted by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), in partnership with the Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation convened under the theme "Radical Economic Transformation: Making the New Development Bank work for Youth". Delegates across BRICS countries gathered to lobby for the Youth Secretariat and Youth Work Streams in the BRICS Business Council.

The resolutions taken at the BRICS Youth Summit will form part of deliberations at the BRICS Youth Ministers Meeting later this week. In her concluding remarks, Deputy Minister Mhaule said, "Our youth must find courage to follow in the great steps of Tata Madiba who as a youth himself was a very enthusiastic and an active citizen".

"As I stated earlier the 10th BRICS Summit will reflect on the outcomes of this gathering, particularly your proposed mechanism such as a Framework to Facilitate the BRICS Youth Secretariat."



Deputy Minister Mhaule addressing the BRICS Youth Summit on 18 July 2018

"Among many important issues was gender-based violence and identifying solutions to protect women and children, access to education, curriculum reforms and jobs of the future.

Delivering the BRICS Youth Summit report, Executive Chairperson of the NYDA, Mr Sifiso Mtsweni said, "We recognise that our partnership is shaped by the interplay between diplomatic, political, security, environmental, economic and regional co-operative dynamics that define early 21st-century international relations".

"We should remain cognisant of global shifts in hard, soft and smart or mental power in the world; the stratification of regional groupings in the world and the agenda of BRICS at large.

"Our unity in diversity and focus on developing common solutions to global challenges remains pivotal," said Mr Mtsweni.



The Deputy Minister also participated at the Mandela Day celebrations earlier in the day where she donated sanitary towels at Raeleng High School



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In pictures: BRICS Youth Summit, 16 – 18 July 2018



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