



## YOUTH MONTH KEY MESSAGES

### **BRIEF:**

This year marks the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 16 June 1976 student uprising in Soweto when young people protested against imposition of Afrikaans by the apartheid regime as a medium of instruction.

The uprising ended tragically with hundreds of young people brutally killed. The class of 1976 became history makers as their actions had a profound change on the socio-political landscape of our nation.

This year National Youth Day and Youth Month will be celebrated under the theme: “**Youth Power; Growing South Africa Together In The Period Of Covid-19.**” The commemoration will be led by the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture in partnership with National Youth Development Agency.

National Youth Day and Youth Month takes place as the country undergoes a national lockdown to fight the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, the Youth Month programme will be hosted virtually through various online platforms such as Social Media, Web-based seminars (Webinars), Virtual Masterclasses, and Television and Radio.

The official Youth Month programme will be launched virtually on 1 June 2020 and President Cyril Ramaphosa will deliver a virtual keynote address on 16 June 2020. While the youth of 1976 fought for freedom and the creation of a democratic state, young people are called on to help the country the fight against the spread of COVID-19.

Moreover, today’s youth activism are also called to play a role in tackling the challenges of poverty, unemployment, HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and alcoholism, personal development, economic freedom and the development of our country.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<p><b><i>Youth were a critical sector in our struggle for freedom in South Africa.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people have always played an important part in defining our nation.</li> <li>• South Africa's youth have been instrumental in defeating apartheid and helping entrench democracy in our country.</li> <li>• The Class of 1976 exposed the brutality of the apartheid regime to the world and ignited resistance around the country.</li> <li>• Through their selfless action in the fight against apartheid we continue to reap the benefits 26 years into our freedom.</li> <li>• It is through the contributions of young South Africans that we can work together to grow South Africa.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Youth must now lead the way in this new struggle facing the world – Covid 19.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The youth of 1976 fought an oppressive regime; the youth of 2020 are called on to fight the spread of the COVID-19.</li> <li>• You can play your part by volunteering in your community; it will help build a stronger nation and give you valuable skills in the process.</li> <li>• Youth can use their technology know-how to find innovative solutions to our country's most pressing challenges.</li> <li>• The creative skills of young people can be used to assist themselves, their families and their communities to overcome the plight of poverty.</li> <li>• Grow a community garden, and do you part in fighting starvation and poverty in your neighbourhood.</li> <li>• Young people can be part of shaping our nation and defining a new way of living post COVID-19.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Youth must set the example and embrace the new normal.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our success in overcoming the coronavirus will ultimately be determined by the changes we make in our everyday behaviour.</li> <li>• Our fate literally rests in our own hands, and we must therefore continue with frequent hand cleaning with alcohol based hand rub or with soap and water.</li> <li>• As restrictions are eased, we must continue to observe social distancing even more carefully and wear face masks whenever we leave home.</li> <li>• Let your actions speak louder than our words by practicing social distancing and following good hygiene habits</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Youth are key to their own development.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people are responsible for their own advancement and should not just be passive recipients of government services.</li> <li>• The key to a better future lies in how productive we are today.</li> <li>• Let us awaken the spirit of 1976 where young people were actively involved in defining their future and country they wanted.</li> </ul>

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people must collectively work towards their economic independence, particularly in these challenging times.</li> <li>• Our youth are the foundation for the South Africa we aspire to build as outlined in the National Development Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Young people are called to build our economy post COVID-19.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In unlocking the potential of youth, we can rebuild our country's economy in these difficult times.</li> <li>• Young people with an aptitude for business are encouraged to grab entrepreneurial opportunities available and start their own businesses.</li> <li>• Government has made a massive push to develop small businesses and to encourage greater levels of entrepreneurship among young people.</li> <li>• A small business will not only generate an income, but it empowers communities and supports the economy.</li> <li>• It also draws new entrants into the economy, strengthens inclusive growth, builds the social economy and creates large numbers of jobs.</li> <li>• We opening employment opportunities through the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention which sets out priority actions to address youth unemployment.</li> <li>• It builds on the commitments made in the Jobs Summit to generate employment and accelerate successful programmes for young people.</li> <li>• Young people can access the employment opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme, Community Works Programme, Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, Tshepo 1 Million and the Youth Employment Service.</li> <li>• We are introducing specialised short courses to address the mismatch between the existing educational, training and development programmes and the requirements of the economy.</li> </ul>