

# INSPIRE

February 2015

The Newsletter of Thousands of  
Young Africans Impacting Positive  
Changes in Lives all over Africa!

TOGETHER IS BETTER



## Editors Note

In this month's INSPIRE; we focus on SDGs and the events leading up to the recent launch of Action/2015 coupled with ideas on how you can get involved in your local community. We also focus on how NAYD is working with other organizations towards sustainable development in Africa.

Let's connect here;

<http://www.nayd.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NAYDmembers/>

<https://twitter.com/NAYDinfo>

Read and be INSPIREd into action,

Editorial Team.



*The road to achievement, Africa is awake.*

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**By Nkhensani Valoyi**



We have eventually reached the year that everyone has been waiting for, the end of MDGs, the beginning of implementation of SDGs, Action 2015 and just about a year where the African Youth is alive with so many possibilities of change. A very interesting trend though that I have been following on social media is that more and **more young people are getting involved in the African development Agenda**. We are in a place where the African youth are asking questions and seeking answers, where our states are starting to consider the voice of the youth, where the private sector is also contributing to youth empowerment and where our academia is revealing the fundamental problems to development; a clear indicator that Africa is awake and trying.

Africa is still in a place where some of our countries have a high GDP, high poverty and high unemployment meaning that those who benefit from such an economy are actually those who own companies. According to the 2014 Economic outlook Growth in sub-Saharan Africa was 5% in 2013 and projected to be about 5.8% in 2014. Excluding South Africa, the figures are 6.1% and 6.8%, respectively. East and West Africa recorded the fastest pace of expansion, above 6%. Low-income countries also recorded growth of above 6%, and the upper-middle-income countries in North and Southern Africa at below 3%. While Kofi Annan said that productivity level

can double in 5 years time on the 2014 African progress report, clearly there is still a gap to be filled between the high GDP and high poverty rate. The increase in productivity should reflect a significant amount of jobs created in the economy.

The numbers above are the reason why the **youth should get more involved in transformation on the ground** so that the REAL red tapes can be identified. 2015 is termed the year of Action for that particular reason. The African youth globally are already engaging and addressing some of the issues using networks and movements like the Network for Africa's youth for development, International youth council, Action 2015 among others. If the youth can keep such energy, passion, enthusiasm and unity more and more problems will be addressed. One thing that we as the youth should be careful of is debt that comes in the form of foreign aid with secret conditions; this will only be the extension of our problems.

Below is what **Patson Malisa** the Network of African Youth for Development County Officer and Chairman of the International Youth Council for South Africa had to say regarding some of the questions that govern action 2015 and beyond:

### 1. How relevant is the implementation of the Post-2015 SDGs?

SDGs and their application in the Post-2015 Development Agenda have many critical elements which were missing in the millennium development goals. Firstly, global affairs are in a much more diplomatic state than they were a few years ago. Change has become a word that is synonymous with the occurrences of the first half of this decade. What we considered to be nonnegotiable, have been tested by the winds of development and globalization.

The most important element that has finally received recognition as a negotiating partner at the SDGs table is the Youth, who were not as vocal in the drafting of the MDGs of 2000. I believe that the true essence of development is within the spirit of Youth. Therefore, it is essential that their voice be the true measure of the relevance of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. I am sure that the strong voice of the youth on regional and global levels thus proves the relevance of the SDGs in this generation's plight.

### 2. Do you think that the new strategy will work in terms of getting all stake holders from the grassroots involved?

I believe that grassroots consultation and implementation is the key to getting anything done. It is impossible to change anything that can't be reached. The willingness of governments to commit to engaging civil society groups and community leaders will determine the longevity of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Education on the roles of both sides is very fundamental as the relationship cannot be sustained under misinterpretations of public and citizen responsibilities.

### 3. Do you think that there will be sustainable transformation in rural areas?

I am certain that rural development will be one of the milestones of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We have inherited systems that were globally meant to service the innovators and contributors of society at that point in time. Many elements have changed since then, and therefore instead of leaning on current structures to create better lives for all, we ought to expand opportunity and innovation hubs. Rural development is an integral part of achieving this objective. At the International Youth Council South Africa, we made rural development a primary goal, and therefore believe that many other international organisations will subscribe to do the same.

We need to focus on ensuring efficient energy sources, access to ICT and basic and tertiary education as primary objectives. Agriculture is also a field yet to be exploited fully in Africa. I believe that many other industries can be developed as a result of establishing agricultural and energy hubs in rural areas. Urbanization is a result of industrial boom in a sector of great profit. If we get agriculture running, we will be able to lift up a lot of rural towns in our respective countries.

It is quite clear that a creative implementation for the above programmes and formulation of policies is required so that these programs can bear tangible results. If you are not yet involved, get involved and let's create a good quality of life amongst us and generations to come.

## 2015: THE YEAR OF ACTION

*By Paul Shaw*

*Steering Group Leader, Network of African Youths for Development and Action/2015 member*

Action/2015 is a global movement made up of thousands of organizations, coalitions, partnerships and individuals including many from all over Africa. 2015 is a critical year for people and the planet. Two crucial UN summits towards the end of the year will offer the opportunity to bring about impactful change. In September 2015, world leaders will convene in New York to agree on Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) - what needs to be done to end poverty, reduce inequality and tackle environmental destruction. In Paris in December, they will come together again to agree on a new climate agreement with the potential to secure a safer planet.

New agreed goals are required to ensure a sustainable future, where prosperity will be widely shared, where everyone's basic needs will be met and social mobility encouraged allowing pathways to greater equality in society, but also where planetary boundaries are respected. The principles of accountability, transparency, participation of stakeholders, the polluter pays principle, and commitment will be required to ensure their success. The decisions made at these two gatherings will help shape the fate of the next generation and many more to come. So it's vital that these plans are as ambitious as possible. World leaders need to step up to the challenge and make the right decisions.

What do we mean by Sustainable Development? **Sustainable development is economic development that is socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.** Rapid economic growth is impacting on earth's planetary boundaries in many ways including through climate change, causing sea level rise, ocean acidification and glacier retreat, through deforestation to satisfy our demand for meat and palm oil, through excess use of herbicides and pesticides on agricultural land, polluting ground water systems and creating dead zones in the seas; through over fishing aided by the latest fish seeking technologies. Our eco-systems are being devastated as a result, creating enormous bio-diversity loss. The share of wealth is also increasingly imbalanced within and between countries.

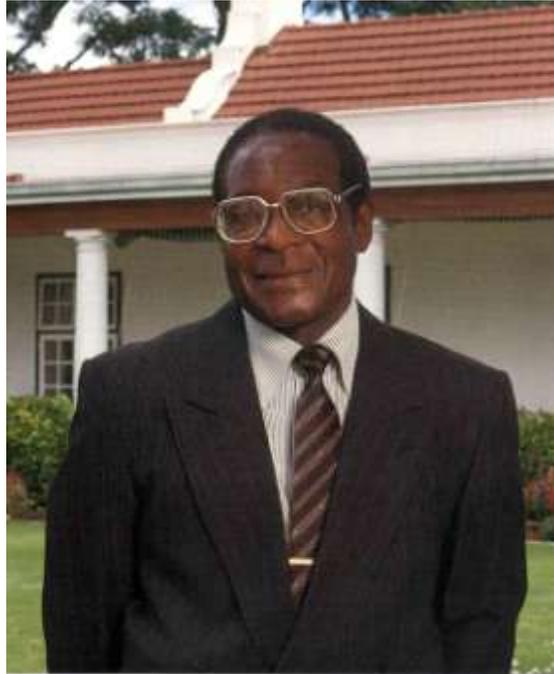
It doesn't need to be this way. We have the tools, knowledge and resources to make a big difference. Through the Millennium Development Goals progress has been made - poverty has been halved for instance, and we have cut preventable child deaths by nearly 50 per cent. From campaigning on issues such as the right to access antiretroviral medications for treatment of HIV infection to childhood immunizations to protecting the environment— when we come together we can make a difference. But we need to move faster – there's still so much to do.

So this is the year we need to let world leaders know that we're watching them, and to tell them exactly what we want them to do. We stand at the turning point for the future of people and the planet. We must accelerate action and leave no individual or country behind. What happens in 2015 will make a huge difference to our future. Together, as a global movement of citizens, we will raise our voice today for the generations of tomorrow.

As an action/2015 member and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai said "**People globally want an end to injustice, poverty and illiteracy.** Our world is interconnected and the youth are ready and mobilized more than ever to see real change take place. Together, we are demanding our leaders take action in 2015 and we must all do our part. I will continue to work tirelessly to call on world leaders to seize this opportunity to guarantee a free, quality primary and secondary education for every child. That is my goal and I hope that my voice will be heard as it is the voice of millions of children who want to go to school."

## AFRICAN UNION TAKES ON NEW LEADERSHIP

Following the 24<sup>th</sup> AU Summit held in Ethiopia under the theme **2015 Year of Women Empowerment and Development towards African's Agenda 2063** Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's president, was appointed as the new chair of AU. 2015 being the crucial year it is in the development agenda this appointment has elicited a lot varying opinions from people across the globe. It is the year that is supposed to see a youth-led development that takes into account factors such as gender empowerment, youth participation and more collaboration within Africa towards development. It will Agenda 2063. You can find out how you can be involved here



While NAYD steers clear of politics towards development in Africa we institutions and systems contribute evidenced in the last phase of the towards or as a hindrance to development goals and leaving the they are curbed with wars and civil closely these institutions and their conversations to be held by young affected with the hope of and in future.

Our members have expressed appropriateness of Mugabe as the towards development. NAYD would want to see **a responsive AU that is inclusive and in support of a youth-led development process**. Africa is bigger than all ideologies or personal differences and in this particular year we can't afford to be caught up in such, it is after all The Year of Action. See the response of our members on the chairmanship of the AU here [https://www.facebook.com/groups/NAYDmembers/permalink/10153003194683830/?qa\\_ref=qd](https://www.facebook.com/groups/NAYDmembers/permalink/10153003194683830/?qa_ref=qd) and let us know what you think.

choosing to direct its efforts recognize the fact that political a lot to development. As MDGs, politics can work countries achieving the basic poverty trap especially when unrest. Therefore NAYD follows actions and provides a space for people who are directly influencing better leaders today

varying opinions in terms of the new chair to steer Africa

also set pace for Africa's more about Agenda 2063 and <http://agenda2063.au.int/>

## NAYD GETS INTO ACTION/2015

NAYD as the leading network of youth interested in development in Africa seeks to create a platform for active involvement in the process of development this year under Action/2015. One of the ways we do this is through #NaydChat, an interactive one hour session on Twitter that brings in experts in various fields to engage with the youth through a question and answer format. #NaydChat was successfully set up last year and has brought in thought leaders in the region to address issues like education for development and social entrepreneurship. In 2015 we will continue to hold the chat every Wednesday on Twitter. You are invited to engage, bring in ideas, suggest guests you would like to have on the chat and give other suggestions by sending a quick email to [judyannet@nayd.org](mailto:judyannet@nayd.org) or [info@stephenmachua.com](mailto:info@stephenmachua.com)

## NAYD'S COUNTRY OFFICERS BEGIN TWO YEAR TERM

Though NAYD is largely an online platform we recognize that development can't be complete without moving offline to connect with the real drivers of development at the community level. Therefore we have representatives who go to the ground on our behalf to engage with the people we can't reach via internet and they form a core part of our organisation. Towards the end of last year NAYD held elections which for the first time included representatives outside of Africa; NAYD is going global as you can see. These new country officers assumed office at the beginning of this year and will serve for two years. We hope to get more actively involved with the youth at the ground through their work. To find out who is your country officer and make contact with them please visit our website.

## NGO OF THE MONTH: FEBRUARY, 2015



In an effort to celebrate the people who work tirelessly at their community to impact change, every month NAYD highlights one youth-led CBO/NGO and celebrates it. We highlight the organization, feature it in our blog and publicize its work on our social media. We do this hoping that more people will be inspired to take action at their local community to address the immediate challenges since ultimately these efforts are the ones that culminate into a developed nation. This month we are celebrating **City of Refuge- Friends Club** that works in Nigeria and which seeks to have the spirit on Nelson Mandela live on through their program **Raising a Million Mandelas**. You can find out about their work [here](http://inspire.nayd.org/2015/01/ngo-of-month-february-2015_31.html)

[http://inspire.nayd.org/2015/01/ngo-of-month-february-2015\\_31.html](http://inspire.nayd.org/2015/01/ngo-of-month-february-2015_31.html)