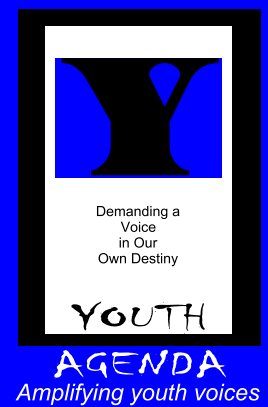


The New Age Voices

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For feedback please email Youth Agenda Trust on youthagenda@gmail.com Issue 11 January 2011

Cost: Free

Youths call for proper youth policy consultation

YOUTHS have called for a proper and comprehensive youth policy consultation that involves youths from all corners of the country and have called on the Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC) to embark on a thorough and inclusive process and not to involve them in rubberstamping skewed policies.

Article 12 of the African Youth Charter provides for every state party to develop a comprehensive and coherent national youth policy. Zimbabwe as a state party has the Zimbabwe Youth Policy that was adopted by Parliament and enacted into a law in 2000 way before the African Youth Charter was adopted in 2006 by the state parties pending ratification.

Article 12 of the African Youth Charter also calls for extensive consultation with young people during the development of the national youth policy.

In view of this, youths said that the Zimbabwe Youth Policy is outdated and characterized with deficiencies as far as the fulfillment of the provisions of the African Youth Charter are concerned, since all national youth policies of state parties have to be developed in accordance with article 12 of the African Youth Charter.

However, youths say it is unfortunate that the Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenization and Empowerment is undertaking a review process of the National Youth Policy without comprehensive civic education on the African Youth Charter which forms the basis of the National Youth Policy development.

They said that such civic education is a prerequisite if a comprehensive and coherent national youth policy that is acceptable to the youthful citizenry of Zimbabwe is to be developed.

Findings of a research on the Zimbabwe Youth Policy that was carried out by the Youth Empowerment for Transformation (YET) noted that the majority of Zimbabwean youth are not aware of the policy which proves that the development of the policy was not informed by extensive consultation with young people.

YET also noted that there are no guarantees for the freedoms, rights and duties within the National Youth Policy as per the main rulings on the guarantees of such freedoms, rights and duties of the



ZYC Board members Abraham Mateta (L) and Tichaona Masiyambiri

African Youth Charter.

Also in its findings, YET said that the guidelines on the definitions of youth and sub groups adopted in the Zimbabwe Youth Policy are not synchronized with the definitions provided for within the African Youth Charter and that national programmes of action developed within the National Youth Policy framework are not adequately connected with an implementation and evaluation strategy.

"There is no adequate and sustained budgetary allocation for the programme of action within the National Youth Policy framework," YET said.

Zimbabwe Youth Council Board Member Tichaona Masiyambiri said that it was premature to try and validate a process that has not been able to reach out to all the youths to enable them to contribute their ideas.

He said that youths should be given the opportunity to extensively scrutinize the youth policy regardless of their location and not to concentrate on soliciting views from the urban areas only.

"The youth policy consultations should not be concentrated in Harare alone, but it should spread even to all the remote areas of the country so that the final document would be representative of all the youths in the country. We do not want a situation whereby the views captured are representative of Harare and Bulawayo only.

A youth organization, Youth Agenda

Trust (YAT) said that as an organization that works with young people from marginalized communities, they view the familiarization and popularization of the African Youth Charter through teaching, education and publications of the respect of rights, responsibilities and freedoms contained in the African youth charter to its membership and other youth as a prerequisite before the Zimbabwe National Youth Policy Review process is carried out.

YAT said that this would ensure meaningful contribution by its membership and other youth during the National Youth Policy review consultations which the ZYC is undertaking since the youth will be aware of the freedoms, rights and responsibilities as well as the corresponding obligations and duties as outlined in the AYC.

Other youth organisations have also concurred that the meaningful participation of young people during the consultations will guarantee the development of a youth friendly National Youth Policy that is acceptable by the generality of the young people in Zimbabwe.

"The youths within the national framework of the Zimbabwe youth policy review must participate actively both within the review process and as equal recipients and beneficiaries of such policies. This can be achieved by educating these young people on the provisions of the African Youth Charter prior to the national youth policy review consultations," YAT said.

The formulation or review of the National Youth Policy will enable young people to focus on issues affecting them so that they can mobilize each other towards addressing the problems and contributing towards the development of the society.

National Youth Development Trust (NYDT) said that the Government should adjust the National Youth Policy in line with the changing political landscape and must review it periodically to enable it to maintain relevance.

NYDT programmes official Njabulo Moyo said that there was need for flexibility if the national youth policy was to gain relevance given the vastly changed political landscape in the country.

"We have to face the reality that the political landscape has changed. There is need for a policy document that reflects these changes. It is also important that the document is reviewed periodically so that it remains relevant in this ever changing environment," Moyo said.

He said that the youth policy should be a platform for young people to participate saying that any overtures to sideline the youth would end up as a self fulfilling prophecy.

"If young people do not participate, the document becomes a borrowed piece of paper. This policy should involve us. The youths should be involved in the formulation and implementation of the youth policy, they should be in charge," said Moyo.

Zimbabwe Youth Council board member, legal practitioner and disability activist Abraham Mateta said that the national youth policy should ensure that all youths are represented in the final policy document because the current one is deeply flawed.

Mateta also called for the mainstreaming of gender in the national youth policy to ensure equal participation between males and females. He also called for the need for the policy to mainstream disability.

"We see disability as cross cutting. About 10 percent of the country's population is disabled so these people must be accommodated to ensure that they participate. As the board we need to step up our efforts in ensuring meaningful participation of people with disability," said Mateta.

Will 2011 bring hope for young people?

The Editor of *The New Age Voices* would like to welcome all progressive youths of Zimbabwe and readers in general to yet another grueling year of the struggle for the realization of the young people's agenda and the perennial fight for democracy and good governance.

Many youths will identify the year 2011 with all the other years of the past decade save for the fact that this year represents another daunting year for youths, most of whom will haplessly find themselves at the mercy of politicians as they gear up for yet

another round of national elections.

For the past 10 years, elections in Zimbabwe have been associated with violence which was perpetrated on innocent civilians by a Zanu PF regime which has been battling for survival in the Zimbabwean political landscape that has changed since the arrival of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC).

Hundreds of youths have been murdered whilst thousands of others have either been beaten, tortured, raped or displaced by Zanu PF thugs who were led by the notorious

Border Gezi youth militia also known as the green bombers, who terrorized villagers and urban dwellers forcing them to align with the Zanu PF manifesto.

In 2008, the regime got desperate to such an extent that it recruited members of the uniformed forces to champion the party's agenda in the elections which saw the forces mainly from the Zimbabwe National Army removing uniforms and camped in rural and farming communities where they set up bases that recruited youth militia and where innocent girls were turned into sex objects.

Many people were killed especially youths after Zanu PF turned the rural areas and the farms into a cauldron and no go areas for opposition political parties and humanitarian relief organisations. Despite regional and international bodies calling the June 2008 presidential election run-off a sham, Zanu PF President Robert Mugabe declared himself the winner of the one-man election and got himself sworn in as a political strategy.

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Elections not declaration of war: Tsvangirai

ELECTION time should not be a declaration of war but should be a time when people select leaders of their choice without fear, President of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) Morgan Tsvangirai has said.

Speaking to thousands of people who thronged the Harare Gardens for the commemoration of the International day of Human Rights, Tsvangirai said that election time should not be a declaration of war but a period in which people take stock of the performance of their leaders.

“The time of elections must not be a declaration of war, it must be peaceful and should afford the people the chance to choose leaders that they want to lead them. People should not live in fear of their lives because they chose to support a candidate of their choice,” Tsvangirai said.

He also said that the army and the police should not be used as tools of repression by wayward politicians but they should protect the people because they are

civil servants.

“People should not live in fear of the police or the army. These institutions are state institutions, we should not fight them and they should not fight us. We do not have any reason to fight the uniformed forces, they are there to protect us and the country. They should not be aligned to a certain political party,” said Tsvangirai.

The MDC leader said that the government is supposed to submit to the people and not have a situation where the people submit to the government.

“We do not want a situation whereby people become servants of the government that they report to but instead the government must submit to the people because it is there to serve the people,” Tsvangirai said.

Tsvangirai fired a broadside at state institutions that fails to honour human rights and said that these institutions such as the CIO should not be used by politicians to

impinge on civil liberties.

He said that the commemoration of the international day of human rights should

remind the people that the struggle was not over but it is still continuing and people should fight for their rights.



Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has been a victim of political as shown in the above picture. He said elections must not be a declaration of war but political parties should sell their policies to the people in a peaceful manner.

2011: expectations of young people

The year 2011 holds a lot of expectations from youths countrywide who are anticipating a conclusion to a number of reforms and national programmes that have a bearing and impact on the lives and aspirations of young people.

Uppermost in the minds of the few youths who have been able to hear about it, is National Youth Policy (NYP) review exercise that has been going on amidst a cloud of secrecy as many youths remain in the dark as to what the policy is all about and what it represents.

The NYP, although poorly publicized still affords youths in Zimbabwe, a chance to champion their cause and ensure that their voices are heard and that the country subscribes to the continentally agreed African Youth Charter.

Some youths who spoke to *The New Age Voices* called on the Zimbabwe Youth Council to institute a proper NYP consultation that reaches out to youths in all corners of the country so that young people in Tsholotsho, Mudzi, Sadza, Zaka, Chiadzwa and so forth are as informed as youths in Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare and other urban centres.

So as young people wait and hope for the new NYP, calls continue to grow for the ZYC to spread the programme countrywide and also extensively solicit youth views in the urban areas as well because many remains in the dark.

This year will also see the crafting of a new curricula for the National Youth Training Service programme, which had

been hijacked by the Zanu PF party to train youth militias that would descend on innocent civilians and opposition party supporters during elections.

Many have called for the revision of the youth service programme with expectations high that the training programme would be able to represent a national picture and shed off the negative perception that young people have for the programme. However, youth activists told *The New Age Voices* that changing the negative perception will require honest and sincere reforms with a national outlook.

Youths also expect that this year, there is going to be meaningful reforms at the Zimbabwe Youth Council, a body though created to represent the young people of Zimbabwe, remains a principal funder and extension of the Zanu PF party youth wing. Recent events that took place in the capital where a Zanu PF apologist took time to attack the finance minister on the basis that he comes from a rival political party is a case in point.

There is need to change the perception of the council by young people, which can be done through reforming the way it conducts its business, which implies that it must stop being partisan and work towards the attainment of the youth agenda.

This year will also see the conclusion of the constitution making exercise which will climax with the referendum that

is likely to be held in the third quarter of this year. There is also going to be an all stakeholders conference around the constitution that will see the participation of young people. It is the hope of youths that the new constitution will take into account the rights and all the other provisions that ensure the attainment of young people's goals and aspirations.

National elections will also be held this year and it is the hope of young people that by the time elections are held, there would have been meaningful reforms that will enable a free and fair poll. They also hope of youths that these elections will be decisive and that losers will not be declared winners and that losers will be able to accept defeat and congratulate the winners. Youths also hope that the elections will not turn this country into a war zone where young people are beaten, killed and raped all because of selfish political agendas.

The students community also hope that 2011 will usher in a new era that will ensure that all students are afforded their right to education and not to continue privatizing education by charging exorbitant tuition fees that allows only children of the elite to learn. It is the hope of all students that young people will be afforded an equal opportunity to learn and that the State cease the politicization of tertiary education.

What the youths can only do is hope.

Students brace for tougher times in 2011

By Welcome Zimuto

THE student community welcomes the reintroduction of the loan and grant scheme by Minister Biti after immense pressure from ZINASU to abolish the slave system created by the Cadetship scheme. The permanent secretary in the ministry of Higher and tertiary Education Dr Washington Mbizvo was recently quoted in weekly newspaper saying that of the \$15 million which had been earmarked for the loan scheme \$13 million was going to cover the cadetship scheme arrears which in recent times contributed to the impoverishment of students at an alarming scale. Given such a scenario the student are likely to revert back to the cadetship scheme.

The reintroduction of the loan scheme should provide for all the needy students and

the mechanisms to safeguard this fund from corruption should be airtight.

Since its inception, the Cadetship scheme proved unpopular amongst students because of its discriminatory and slavish nature. Further to that the scheme has been punctuated by political connotations where a chosen few had access to the fund while the majority of students were condemned ineligible and hence failed to access it. Students are now tired of piecemeal measures which are being put by the ministry of Higher and Tertiary education in the name of “Student assistance fund”.

The worry of students as they brace for the 2011 academic year is whether or not they will have access to the fund, given the corruption and apartheid manner in which the fund is being administered. Perhaps, the

Finance Minister is paying lip service in order to appease students who continue to mount pressure on a daily basis.

ZINASU urges the Finance Minister to cease giving financial support to the ZANU PF Presidential Scholarship. Robert Mugabe who declared himself Chancellor of all Universities should stop his hypocrisy and start supporting local institutions. His daughter is at a foreign institution where standards are exceptionally high while he is on a rampage to destroy local institutions.

The partisan criterion used to issue out scholarships to ZANU PF aligned students should stop forthwith and the funds should be diverted to local universities where deserving students languish in misery on a daily basis.

The onus is on the ordinary student to

demand and take back his/her academic rights by challenging Mugabe's oppression and discrimination against institutions of Higher learning.

The year 2011 must usher a new dawn and dispensation in student activism. Times will be tough, but the tough students will keep on going.

ZINASU will as always, be on the lead in confronting injustices of all kind and we remain resolute and steadfast in our quest for the realization of academic freedoms in Zimbabwe. In defense of academic freedoms.

Welcome Zimuto is the Deputy Secretary General of ZINASU Masaraure faction.

ZYC:A disgrace to the youth movement.

By George Makoni

As I pen this article I am extremely pained by the level of manipulation, dictatorship, hypocrisy, brutality and all those bad sounding qualities which characterize the Zimbabwe Youth Council. A body which came into being courtesy of an act of parliament (25:4) which sought to link youth formations under this umbrella body. It was put directly under the youth ministry. According to the mentioned act, it must comprise of a 15 member board, with a majority of them being appointed by the president. To those who are elected by youth organizations, it is also the president who eventually gives a nod to their sitting on the body and generally most of those duties are done through the youth minister of the day, hence the fact that this animal is largely under the control of the president is undisputable in as much as it is inevitable.

This chorus has always been on our hymns from the inception of the stated body. This is the body through which the National Youth Service was being supported with regards to its legitimacy or rather correctness in terms of being a harbinger of patriotism, empowerment and responsible citizenship to the youths, it has also been a conduit of resources to support its activities. It is on record that this arm has been very critical in the sustenance of ZANU PF rule since 2000. Having had been mainly used to defend 'the gains of the revolution' by way of "dealing accordingly" with those who were perceived to reverse them.

The graduates of the service herein mentioned provided a perfect combination with war veterans to silence opposing voices in all the elections which were held and in the 2000 land grab they played an instrumental role in terrorizing the white commercial farmers and perceived opposition Movement for Democratic Change supporters, some of them naively claiming that, they are war veterans, imagine such an assertion at the age of 20.

This being one of the many tales of the animal called ZYC, known in some circles as ZANU Youth Council, youths had felt things are going to transform greatly with the inception of the inclusive government. This hope was brought about by the inclusion of civic society youth formations in the board of directors, prior to the past scenario whereby ZANU PF youths monopolized the board. The youths who got the nod from the civic society side include Lawrence Mashungu, Chamunogwa Arnold,

Tichaona Masiyambiri, Vimbai Mulambo and Melisa Ndlovu. This initially brought a relief to the youth movement because a general sentiment that our voices could now be heard by the council spread across the movement. Just like the inclusive government at its inception there was joviality and excitement. During those days I vividly remember that the transfer of offices from Mukwati Building to Newlands where they are currently located brought some considerable joy to the youths whom I talked to, but given the shrewdness of the ZANU PF party I knew that somehow this could turn sour as time goes on.

The first step to contain comrades sent from the civic society angle, a ZANU PF loyalist, who up to now masquerades as a moderate in the name of Livingstone Dzikira, was appointed a director. This had followed his efficiency and effectiveness as Minister Kasukuwere's personal assistant and prior to that he had obtained a bootlicking platform at the University of Zimbabwe where he was one of minister Kasukuwere's graduate teaching assistants.

In my own view this has been very politically strategic since Livingstone has generally managed to push agendas on behalf of the minister, who is undoubtedly the most powerful Young Turk in the ZANU PF party. The people who were deployed to represent civic society have in many cases been left with an egg on their faces, following dictating of pace by the minister's blue eyed boy, whose behavior in the context of leading ZYC is synonymous to the one by my high school head boy. He has largely been at the helm of crafting the National Youth Policy, crafting of ZYC programmes, the choice of facilitators and selection of representatives of the organization.

I remember one of the board members from the civic society side complaining that 'he does not update us', contrary to what the minister who recently gave him a pat on the back for always updating him on what is prevailing to youths.

The funniest or rather the most weird incident occurred on the 10th of January 2011 at HICC when delegates who had been invited to a youth planning summit ended up being bombarded with ZANU PF rhetoric which saw the unobjective attack of Honourable Tendai Biti and some MDC officials, who were being labeled enemies of progress for bringing about sanctions and that usual staff

meant to demean MDC and the civic society. Speeches which were expected to come from other non-ZANU PF elements were scrapped suddenly from the programme.

The same applies to the thematic groups which were anticipated to bring about direction for 2011 youth programmes. It ended up being a praise and worship of minister Kasukuwere and a pulpit to castigate all anti ZANU PF elements. The non-ZANU PF youths who were in attendance had to walk out in protest. It was a bit too late since Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation had already beamed the endorsement of the process by youths from the civic society. The organizations which were recognized include Young Pan Africanist Movement, Youth in Mining, Youth for Independence and Upfumi Kuvanhw Trust.

The tension between ZANU PF youths and the ones from the civic society youth movement could be felt in response to the speeches which were being made. Hence in as much as the inclusive government has largely been a flop, to a larger extent the Zimbabwe Youth Council has largely been useful as a tool to further ZANU PF agendas ahead of the wishes of the broader youth movement. , nonetheless I appreciate the efforts made by some youth organizations who have managed to force the youth wishes in the ears of decision makers from outside. Of particular importance is the documents on National Youth Policy which are being largely considered in the crafting of the National Youth Policy. These organizations which provided the documents include Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT), National Youth Development Trust (NYDT), Young Voices Network and Penny Trust. Keep up the good work.

In a nutshell I call upon all the concerned civic society youth organizations to convene and reconsider their participation in the Zimbabwe Youth Council activities, lest we do not unconsciously endorse agendas which are detrimental to fellow youths in Zimbabwe. Let's set conditions for participation in Zimbabwe Youth Council or else we will be playing in the hands of Livingstone Dzikira, was ZANU PF angel, masquerading to be for us the youths.

The opinions and sentiments expressed by the writer are purely his and do not in any way represent the editorial policy of the New Age Voices - Editor

We want internationally supervised elections: Youths

YOUTHS in Bikita have called on regional and international leaders to deploy election monitors in advance in the event that the elections being talked of are held this year.

Speaking on the sidelines of the commemoration of The International Day of Human Rights that was held at the Mapari Lodges in Bikita, the youths said that holding elections under the climate similar to the conditions of the 2008 elections would be another fraud for the people of Zimbabwe.

They said that the present situation was not conducive for the holding of free and fair elections because people were already being terrorized in the area in the run up to the

elections.

"We are not afraid of Zanu PF, we can defeat them anytime because we have the majority of the support. Even with 50 percent of our support, we will be able to pull through. What is essential at this moment is a neutral eye that will monitor the elections without fear or favour," said John Nyika who is an MDC provincial member in Masvingo.

Nyika said that although Zimbabwe was celebrating International human rights day, the country was still far off the required standard because of the gross human rights abuses that take place in the country on a daily basis.

He said that of major concern was that

despite efforts being made to come up with a new constitution, the Zanu PF side of government was actually failing to honour the present Lancaster Constitution.

"We are concerned that although there are efforts to write a new constitution, Zanu PF has never tried to observe the old one so what guarantee do we have that they would want to respect this one?" Nyika said.

The youths also expressed concern over the roles being played by traditional chiefs saying that most of them have already converted to Zanu PF political commissars.

Nyika singled out chiefs Marozva and Mabika for spearheading Zanu PF's terror campaigns over the years saying that the

chiefs have tried to make their areas 'no go areas' for other opposition parties.



Youths have called on the international community to supervise elections scheduled for 2011. In the past elections in Zimbabwe have been characterised by massive vote rigging and violence.

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The resultant stand-off led to the formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU) which many youths have described as a failure because of the refusal by Mugabe to cease executive authority which has seen him making unilateral decisions with reckless abandon without consulting his co-principals.

Many youths say holding elections in 2011 will bring back the sad memories of the past and have called for reforms first before polls are held to ensure that the past situation where losers are declared winners will not be repeated and that arms of government are not turned into political structures such as the police, army, prison service, traditional leaders and the judiciary among others.

The New Age Voices, a newsletter exclusively for the youths was established last year with the aim of furthering the young people's agenda and to speak for the voiceless at the same time playing a pivotal role in the fight for democratic reforms.

The Editor welcomes articles, contributions and suggestions from all progressive youths who would like to make

a positive contribution towards the attainment of a better Zimbabwe where all people are treated as equal and where the aspirations of the young people are put at the forefront.

The Editor and the team behind your favourite newsletter would like to wish all young Zimbabweans a happy, blessed and prosperous 2011.

Elections yes but....reforms first: youths

YOUTHS have said that they are prepared for elections but there must be political and electoral reforms first to ensure that elections are held in a conducive environment that enables the holding of free and fair election in line with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) guidelines on the holding of elections.

Speaking to *The New Age Voices* at a Youth Elections Summit that was held by Youth Ahead , youth said that they were prepared to hold elections at any time but proper mechanisms must be put in place in terms of political and electoral reforms.

Youths here said that although the electoral and political playing field was not even, they should not give up but must steadfastly pursue the democratic route that ensures that all youths participate in elections.

The summit consisted of youths from high density areas of Harare and from other youth organisations who were all unanimous in pressing for reforms that have stalled since the first quarter of this year.

Ruwadzano Muzvondiwa, a programmes assistant with Youth Ahead said that there must be efforts by the government to ensure that youths are not manipulated by politicians during times of elections.



Facilitators to the Youth Elections Summit jot down contributions from participants

She also said that elections must ensure active youth participation and that voter registration for youths must be hassle free unlike in the past where youths would find it difficult to register to vote.

Muzvondiwa also said that youths should be accorded the freedom to choice of assembly and should be able to participate in decision making processes that include elections and other processes such as the constitution making and the youth policy review.

Programmes coordinator, Justin Madho who was part of the proceedings said that there was need to promote youth

participation in democratic processes as they are paramount in national development.

“Youths must be able to participate in democratic processes so that they are able to identify and claim their rights,” said Madho.

One youth, Trish Chinheya from Dzivarasekwa said that youths have lost faith in the electoral processes because there is no guarantee that the election outcome will be respected in Zimbabwe.

“The fear that youths have is that even if they vote, there is no guarantee that the outcome will be respected but youth should stand up and claim their rights.

Another youth from Dzivarasekwa

Yeukai Makamure said that despite the uneven playing field, youths should not only actively participate in the elections, but should also vie for leadership positions.

She also urged youths to desist from violence. “We must have a voice in the national processes and not allow to be manipulated by politicians. We should struggle to shape the future because we are the future but we should not engage in violence,” Yeukai said.

Despite attempts by the struggling coalition government, a child of borne out of the dispute of the March 2008 harmonized elections that were won by the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) but disputed by Zanu PF, to effect democratic reforms, there has been no meaningful movement in that regard.

Ever since the setting up of the media, electoral and human rights commissions early this year, the institutions have largely been dormant owing to the unwillingness of some of the actors in the Inclusive government.

The call for elections this year has sent shivers down the spines of many youths who fear that they will be subjected to another orgy of violence that left many dead and thousands others injured in 2008.

Youth Agenda Trust events diary

DATE	EVENT	PLACE / CITY	VENUE
21 January 2011	Constitution Community Discussion Forum	Marondera	Nehanda Hall
22 January 2011	Constitution Community Discussion Forum	Wedza	Zaire Township
23 January 2011	Constitution Community Discussion Forum	Murehwa	Murehwa Centre
27 January 2011	Youth cluster thematic W/shop	TBA	TBA
2 February 2011	Constitution Community Discussion Forum	Tsholotsho	Better Schools Prog
3 February 2011	Constitution Community Discussion Forum	Lupane	Lupane W Centre
4 February 2011	Constitution Community Discussion Forum	Nkayi	Nkayi Centre

Flashback: 2010 in pictures



Youth Agenda Trust convened constitution consultative meetings with school children countrywide. Students from Chinhoyi 2 High are captured here in one such meeting where they aired their views.



Members of the Junior Parliament who spoke to the New Age Voices said government should critically look into the welfare of young people through the National Youth Policy review process.