



National Council of Trade Unions

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

NACTU FEELS THERE IS NOTHING TO CELEBRATE FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH ON INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY.

THE 12TH OF August marks an important event globally that seeks to support the day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in 1996 (resolution 50/81).

The future of every country lies in its youth." Capture the youth and gain the future", but for the youth in South Africa the future really looks bleak and uncertain. The high unemployment rate forces us to introspect and to change our approach. There is a misalignment and incoherence between the departments of Employment & Labour, Education (both Basic and Higher) Trade and industry and business that contributes to this chaos. What's shocking is that our youth looks on and commend those who loot their future, what kind of youth allows their future to be destroyed by radar less, aimless and kleptocratic leadership? Youth are important catalyst in any establishment and should catalyse transformation within the country. The youth of today in South Africa are drawn to consumerism, gutter bling culture and terrible dislike to education in favour of narrow tenderpreneurship and selfish accumulation regime whose manifestations have plunged this country into a crisis. Youth structures and forums should reflect on the future as envisaged by youth. True leadership cares and will never allow their youth to be fed drugs, alcohol and be exposed to Gender Based Violence.

The National Skills Development Act is an enemy of the youth because it is not aimed at skills development but rather deskilling our Youth. Let's be practical and realistic for a while, Development orientation means innovation and creativity so as to be able to be entrepreneurs and utilise the land of our forefathers and by land we mean all and everything, land, minerals, air including sea and while talking about the sea NACTU still insists that there is no Indian ocean in Africa and demands the immediate changing of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans to African (East and West) oceans so that our youth can protect, defend, utilise and bond with what originally belongs to them.

Skills development should be channelled from early childhood from the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Higher Education and Training should be just perfect and polish those skills.E.G. How do you start arts, electrical, mechanical, technology, plumbing, etc. When you are grown up who is used to loiter around after school and are no more energetic.

The youth have been lied to by the so - called Liberators who are even today signing off the extraction of our resources outside without beneficiation. They will soon find out that they inherited an empty shell and are also indebted to our great- great grandchildren unless they wake up and rise.

End.

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