



South Africa Team Profiles

Chairman for South Africa: Patson Malisa



Patson Malisa is a Thought Leader, keynote speaker, executive & facilitator. He consults for upcoming and established organizations in the formation and repairing organizational structure, along with conflict resolution and project management. Among others, He has had experience serving in the following capacities:

1. National Coordinator at the Network of African Youths for Development
2. Chairman for South Africa, Organising Secretary, Secretary for information & Publicity, Continental Youth Executive Committee at the Organisation of African Youth.
3. Chairman of Rapporteurs at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) High Level Youth Policy Dialogue, Nairobi Kenya 2014 .
4. National Youth Delegate for the World Youth Conference, 2014

Patson's passion is focused on developing mechanisms for sustained growth and creating a succession plan for the next generation.

National Coordinator: Raphala Seima



A Medical Scientist by training and a Clinical Research Associate (CRA) by profession, Raphala Seima is a dynamic and results-orientated change agent passionate about unlocking Africa's potential. A Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute (TMALI) scholar, he remains a proponent of any initiatives advancing the development of the African Youth. Through involvement in organisations such as the South African Clinical Research Association and Black Management Forum, he persistently advances meaningful participation of previously side-lined and equally willing and competent individuals.

Research & Information Officer: Tabani Mtombeni



Tabani Mtombeni is an adaptable individual with a strong background in Research, Science and Technology. He currently serves as Treasurer of the Young Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (YWSET) - an organisation that seeks to usher young women into the fields of science, engineering and technology. He believes in the deployment of technology to alleviate human suffering and improve standards of living.

Programs Development Officer: Koketso Marishane



HRH Koketso M Marishane is a cosmopolitan Arts Education & ICT Consultant from Ga-Marishane in Limpopo Province, South Africa. He is a Pan-African Visionary, having contributed to various ICT and Arts Educational settings in different capacities around the world. He's presently Researcher at the National Digital Repository of South Africa, Consultant at the Es'kia Mphahlele Trust, Adjudicator for the National Eisteddfod Academy, Sponsorship Manager for Limpopo ICT Forum, Advisory Committee Member at the Limpopo Arts & Culture Association and Network Facilitator at Activate Leadership for Public Innovation. 2014 records include: Top 1000 Tomorrow's Leaders Convention Fellow, Top 200 Young South Africans by Mail & Guardian; Top 100 Young Leaders Globally by UNAOC; Stars of Limpopo by City of Polokwane; Global Youth Talent Fellow (Norway) and Activate Leadership Fellow. He's the Co-founder of Limpopo Reads Foundation and Licensee for TEDxGaMarishane. He's presently Ambassador of the following: World Economic Forum, United Nations, Stephen Gill Peace Academy, White Ribbon South Africa and International Youth Council member. Marishane, a believer, periodically volunteers at his community under the Marishane Local Government thus expects to experience progressive and innovative tools being used to address global challenges, especially in Africa.

Entrepreneurship Development Officer: Nkhensani Valoyi



Nkhensani is a Thought Leadership and African economic politics graduate from the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, final year psychology student at Unisa, Managing Director of UpRoot Development (A youth development agency that focuses on skills development, social ills in schools and women empowerment through entrepreneurship). An Alumni executive for an Alumni chapter at the Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute, A member, social media co-ordinator and blogger for the Network for Africa's youth for Development. She has contributed articles to the foresight for development, Inspire (NAYD), The Thabo Mbeki Africa's leadership institute blog and contributed a paper for the 4th AU Conference on unemployment and social ills. She is passionate about decoloniality, youth empowerment (Particularly women) and change perception.

"Africa's wealth is hidden in the thoughts of Africa's youth and children, we must work together to discover these ideas", Nkhensani

International Relations Officer: Valesca Erlank



Born Valesca Joan Erlank, is a social activist, humanitarian, philanthropist and thought leader. Being a free spirit and open minded, She speaks African and is a continuous student of the African Renaissance. Ms Erlank is a graduate of the Thabo Mbeki Leadership Institute. She has served as South Africa's representative in the Youth Development Division at the International Transformation Foundation, Co-founding member at the Africa Youth Coalition and is also the founder of the Nobantu Foundation.

Communication & Marketing Officer: Mike Mpanya



Mike Mpanya is a youth advocate who has a passion for the championing of Youth empowerment for their contribution to the nation and continent. He has served at the Organisation of African Youth, South Africa, in the capacity of Secretary of Information & Publicity, Secretary General and Vice Chairman. He is currently enrolled as a B(Eng) Electrical Engineering Student at the University of Pretoria.