



5<sup>th</sup>  
**Commonwealth  
Youth  
Ministers  
Meeting**

**Gaborone, Botswana  
26-30 May 2003**



**Commonwealth Secretariat**



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**Commonwealth Secretariat**

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Commonwealth Youth Ministers Conference. Grand Palm International Convention Centre, Gaborone, Botswana 26-30 May 2003

# Introduction and Background

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The fifth Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting (CYMM) took place in Gaborone, Botswana from 27-30 May, 2003 under the theme: **Young People: Development Partners Against Poverty and HIV/AIDS**.

Ministers reviewed strategic and operation plans of Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP), considered the direction of the CYP and set priorities for action for 2003-2006. The Meeting also provided Ministers with opportunities for networking, learning from and exchanging ideas with Commonwealth colleagues in an informal environment. Thirty-seven (37) countries participated in the meeting; of these, twenty-three (23) were represented by Ministers, representatives of the Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Games Federation, UNICEF, the UN Youth Unit, the United States Peace Corps, the University of South Africa, the British Council and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) participated as observers.

The Meeting was opened by HE the Hon Festus Mogae, President of the Republic of Botswana, and chaired by the Hon Thebe Mogami, Minister for Labour and Home Affairs.

CYMM was preceded by meetings of the Pan Commonwealth Youth Forum (26-27 May), and the Regional Advisory Boards (RABs) and Committee of Management (CoM) on 27 May. The RABs and CoM examined the CYP's programme and financial performance during 2000-2003, and the proposed work programme and plan of expenditure for 2003-2006. The RYFs put forward their recommendations to the RAB and CoM, and again at CYMM.

The first CYMM was held in the Maldives in 1992, the second in Port of Spain in 1995, the third in Malaysia in

1998 and the fourth in Solomon Islands in 2000. Prior to that, the operations of the CYP were guided by the recommendations of the Commonwealth Youth Affairs Council (CYAC).

The CYMM 2000 and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2002 endorsed the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) to 2005 as an instrument that aims to facilitate governments in their efforts to create enabling conditions for the empowerment of young people. It outlines some basic principles of youth empowerment and provides governments with a range of policy options that respond to critical action areas. The latter is important insofar as it helps respond to the strategic needs for youth empowerment in the respective countries. In general, the PAYE was developed as a responsive mechanism to assist member countries in identifying and developing critical areas for the implementation of youth empowerment programmes.

## CYMM 2003

Through interactive and dynamic methods, this meeting provided Ministers with opportunities to exchange ideas and discuss major themes and strategic issues that confront young people. Ministers called for greater involvement and participation of young people throughout the CYP governance process. CYMM responded to this call by changing both the content and process of the meeting, providing effective opportunities for young people to communicate the issues they felt to be of greatest concern.

# 5th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

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## Agenda Item 1 The Opening

The Official Opening of the 2003 CYMM was held at the Grand Palm Hotel Conference Centre from 5.00-7.00 pm on 27 May 2003. The meeting received addresses from HE the Hon Festus Mogae, President of the Republic of Botswana, the Hon Thebe Mogami, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs and the Rt Hon Don McKinnon, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth. The ceremony concluded with the launching of the *Commonwealth Journal on Youth Work*.

The meeting began on Wednesday 28 May with the election of a chair – the Hon Thebe Mogami, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs of Botswana – who welcomed the delegations to the meeting, and presented a framework to discuss the Secretariat's action and progress made on previous Commonwealth Youth Ministers' recommendations. He congratulated Youth Ministers on putting in place the principle of youth empowerment, and noted that the promotion of positive policies, principles and programmes have significantly impacted upon young people throughout the Commonwealth. He stated that the meeting would be concluded through the endorsement of the CYP's Strategic and Operation Plans 2003-2006 and that a set of recommendations will be sent to the Commonwealth Heads of Government in December 2003.

The Rt Hon Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General, addressed the meeting. He reiterated the Commonwealth's commitment to placing young people at the centre of sustainable social and economic development. The Secretary-General commended CYP on its efforts of incorporating the Youth for the Future (YFF) initiative (CHOGM 2002 Mandate) into its existing programme.

## Agenda Item 2 Adoption of Agenda and Record of Last Meeting

The adoption of the agenda and the record of the last meeting was moved by **Fiji Islands** and seconded by **Mozambique**.

## Agenda Item 3 CYP Progress Reports 2000-2003 Secretary-General's Report

A key feature of this CYMM was the Commonwealth Secretary-General's report on progress and achievements

in the CYP's five strategic areas (Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE)/Youth Development Index (YDI), Economic Enfranchisement, Youth Participation, Strengthening Youth Ministries and Human Resource Development), the mandates which expired in June 2003.

### CYP Progress Report 2000-2003 (CoM Report)

The Chairperson of the Committee of Management, Mary Grace Nkole, presented the CYMM Report and recommendations to Ministers. The CoM recommendations were endorsed by CYMM. She informed CYMM that the new representatives of CoM for the period 2003-2006 were:

- ❖ **Africa Region** – Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Zambia
- ❖ **Asia Region** – India, Malaysia, Maldives
- ❖ **Caribbean Region** – Canada, Guyana, Jamaica
- ❖ **South Pacific Region** – Australia, Kiribati, New Zealand

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*The CoM report and recommendations were adopted by New Zealand and seconded by Trinidad and Tobago.*

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### CYP Head's Report

Mr Ignatius Takawira, Head of CYP, made a presentation to Ministers on the performance of the department and its progress in achieving its outcomes on the five programming areas for 2000-2003.

Ministers reviewed CYP's progress and reaffirmed their commitment to youth development in the Commonwealth. They noted the emergence of a new paradigm guiding the CYP in its work based on international human rights standards, focusing on criteria such as participation, transparency and accountability in the development and promotion of policy and programmes. The Ministers also noted with satisfaction that the new youth development paradigm put youth at the centre of sustainable development and democracy.

The CYMM applauded the progress made in raising the profile of the CYP within the international community, but recognised that young people across the Commonwealth have little appreciation of the Commonwealth and the CYP. The CYMM therefore recommended that CYP give higher priority to promoting the Commonwealth and CYP to young people throughout the Commonwealth.

CYMM recognised the important role of the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI) in addressing issues of poverty and unemployment among young people. It called for the expansion of the Youth Enterprise Development programme as part of the mandate of the Youth for the Future (YFF) Initiative. CYMM also recommended the establishment of a special global fund to promote youth enterprise across the Commonwealth. Ministers recognised that there is a growing need to address increasing crises associated with youth development, but cautioned against expanding the current mandates of the CYP. They reiterated the view expressed by CoM that CYP should continue to focus its intervention in areas in which it has a comparative advantage.

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*The meeting noted that the targets for formulating National Youth Policies have been met but recommended that member governments should now focus on implementation to ensure actions and programmes were delivered for the benefit of youths.*

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## Ministerial Review Group (MRG) Report

CYP went through an extensive consultative Ministerial Review Group (MRG) process in 1999-2000, which resulted in the reorientation of the programme and its management structure. The review emphasised the centrality of young people in CYP's overall strategic and operational planning process. This has led to the role of the Youth Caucus becoming more prominent, and to CYP receiving increased resources to support its work in the regions and at Pan Commonwealth level.

CYMM noted that the MRG recognised that decentralisation of operations has positively changed the roles and relationships between the Pan Commonwealth Office and the Regional Centres. Ministers also agreed with MRG's assertion that there is a need to mobilise Extra-Budgetary Resources (EBR), as long as this does not compromise other project work. Ministers recommended that an internal audit process together with a benchmarking exercise for indirect costs be

carried out in order to ensure effective financial controls of the CYP's resources. They agreed that the formula for calculating the pledges should be reviewed in order to preserve the integrity of the fund, and encouraged the early settlement of outstanding pledges.

The MRG endorsed the centrality of young people in the CYP governance process and acknowledged the valuable contributions made by the Youth Caucus.

### *Issues Emerging from the MRG Discussion*

Although gender mainstreaming is an integral part of CYP's overall programme, **South Africa** enquired whether CYP programmes reflect gender balance and catered for persons with disabilities.

*In responding to this, CYP recognised that while there is no discrimination against persons with disabilities, it needs to develop programmes to cater for persons with a wide range of disabilities. Gender equality is a cross cutting theme of CYP's overall programme.*

**Namibia** enquired what Poverty Eradication and ICT programmes are in place and where.

*CYP stated that it is currently offering ICT programmes in Zambia and other countries that request assistance with similar programmes. The ICT Centre in Zambia conducts training for youths from Commonwealth African countries.*

**Trinidad and Tobago** enquired what measures were being put in place to address the shortage of technical staff at the Centres.

*CYP responded that its limited budget restricts the number of persons that it can employ. Collaboration with CFTC and other divisions within the Secretariat is a strategy to supplement skills available at the regional centres to enhance their impact.*

CYMM endorsed the progress report on CYP's implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Review Group and made some additional recommendations:

- ❖ CYP should continue its efforts to reduce its administrative costs;
- ❖ CYMM recognised the increased status of the RABs in CYP's overall programme process;
- ❖ CYP should undertake a further examination of the approach proposed by the MRG for allocation of the CYP budget, including an examination of the feasibility of introducing benchmarking for administrative costs;
- ❖ CYP should establish stronger collaborative links with other technical areas of the Secretariat, namely the CFTC, as well as forming partnerships with international donors and regional organisations;

- ❖ While there are tremendous benefits to be derived from the mobilisation of EBR, CYMM cautions the CYP concerning the potential for distortion in the strategic alignment of the programme as well as the possible distraction of efforts away from the management and implementation of core programmes.

**New Zealand** moved for the adoption of the MRG report and this was seconded by the **United Kingdom**.

### CYP Progress Report 2000-2003 (Youth Caucus Report)

The outgoing Chair of the Youth Caucus, Ms Mulako Mwanamwalye, introduced the new Youth Caucus Chair, Mr Dev Suman Sindhu of India, and presented its report to CYMM. The members of the new Youth Caucus are:

Mr Dev Suman Sindhu	<i>Chair</i>
Ms Segametsi Moatlhaping	<i>Africa Representative</i>
Dr Muhammad Islam	<i>Asia Representative</i>
Mr Damian Hughes	<i>Caribbean Representative</i>
Ms Jeannie Daniel	<i>South Pacific Representative</i>

CYMM has implemented previous CYMM recommendations (1998 and 2000) that the Commonwealth Youth Caucus Report be placed earlier on the Agenda so that Ministers would have more time to discuss the report and its recommendations.

The outgoing Youth Caucus Chair reminded CYMM of the demographic pattern of many Commonwealth countries, particularly the developing ones, which show that young people do and will continue to form a very large part of the population in decades to come. This reality will have serious implications and consequences for economic, social and political development.

#### *Issues Emerging from Youth Caucus Meeting*

- ❖ The Caribbean RYF Co-ordinator advised that the relationship should be seen as tripartite, ie involving CYP, government ministries and National Youth Representatives. He recommended that government ministers should therefore provide weekly/monthly appointments with Youth Representatives to discuss issues relevant to youth development.
- ❖ **Ghana** recommended that Youth Representatives should work through established structures.
- ❖ **Sierra Leone** cautioned the Youth Representatives to stay focused to ensure that the needs of young people at the grass-roots level are addressed, since there is a tendency for youth representatives to gravitate towards cementing relationships with Ministers and other high-level functionaries, at the expense of more meaningful engagements that would benefit the young people they were chosen to represent.

- ❖ **South Africa** commented that it might be beneficial for youth representatives not to become too entangled in a close relationship with Government Ministries. Their focus should be on mobilising youth to spread Commonwealth values. In addition, the Minister recommended that for the next CYMM, more focus should be placed on the challenges faced by youth and the strategies they implemented to address these challenges.
- ❖ **Ghana** expressed the view that there should be continuous support by Government and other stakeholders for the work of the Youth Caucus.

#### *Youth Caucus Recommendations for implementation by CYP*

- ❖ There is a common perception that the Commonwealth Youth Caucus and the Regional Youth Forums are separate bodies. It is therefore recommended that the entire network be referred to as the Commonwealth Youth Caucus. The Regional Youth Forum is to be renamed the Regional Youth Caucus, while what is currently known as the Pan Commonwealth Youth Caucus be the executive body, thus minimising confusion.
- ❖ As a strategy for improving youth participation, there is an urgent need to review the *Youth Representatives Handbook* to deal with issues of selection guidelines, election procedures, resignations or non-performance of a member, youth age definition, etc.
- ❖ There is an urgent need to clarify the broader roles and functions of the Regional Youth Forums/Youth Caucus beyond that of attending RABs and youth ministers meetings.
- ❖ Strategies must be instituted and enriched to support the handover process between the outgoing and incoming Caucus.
- ❖ Efforts by the Political Affairs Division to include young people in their activities are commended. CYP should encourage mainstreaming of youth issues in other divisions, governments and development agencies.
- ❖ Efforts must be put in place to recruit young people to work with CYP as Programme Officers to support programme implementation and development.
- ❖ Develop an aggressive communications strategy must be developed to reach young people across the Commonwealth and beyond.

#### *Recommendations to Governments*

- ❖ Support the establishment and strengthening of structures such as National Youth Councils to promote youth participation at the national level and use them to help in identifying youth representatives for participation in the CYP and other governance processes.
- ❖ Support their national youth representatives by providing resources and other support to enhance the quality of output and outcomes.

- ❖ Provide financial and other resources to support young people to work as interns at CYP and other development agencies.
- ❖ Facilitate proper transition between old and new youth representatives.
- ❖ Provide skills training and other opportunities to enhance the capacity of youth representatives.

#### *Recommendations to Youth representatives*

- ❖ Ensure they understand their role as representatives of the entire youth population of their countries and widen their industrial knowledge.
- ❖ Ensure their work has an impact on the ordinary youth in their countries.
- ❖ Be committed and have the time to carry out their role as CYP's youth representatives.

The Youth Caucus report was adopted by **Ghana** and seconded by **South Africa**.

#### **Collaborating Partner Agencies' Reports**

The following agencies have partnered with the CYP on joint programmes, or have funded specific projects.

They made presentations to Ministers on their work with CYP and strategies for enhancing collaboration in the future. The work of these agencies consisted of the following:

- ❖ **The Commonwealth Foundation** assists on NGO-specific projects and provides funding for the Youth Forum at CHOGM.
- ❖ **The Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council (CYEC)** has participated in a major project on Citizenship and Young People and co-ordinates the Youth Forum with CYP at CHOGM (1997-2002)
- ❖ **UNICEF** has partnered with CYP on a range of projects and has provided in excess of £200,000 for youth health peer projects and youth participation publications.
- ❖ **The UN Youth Unit** worked with CYP on facilitating entry points for youth development within the UN systems
- ❖ **The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)** is in the process of working with CYP to explore opportunities for using sports as a tool for development.

#### *Issues Emerging from the Collaborating Partner Agencies*

**Ghana** requested that youth exchanges be encouraged in-country rather than just among countries. The Minister commented that young people in his country know more about the lifestyle of youth in the United Kingdom than that of other young people in their own country.

#### *Recommendations*

The Ministers endorsed the appeal by CYMM in its commitment to support the effective implementation of the proposed CYP strategic programmes. CYMM also recommended that every Ministry within respective countries should be utilised towards supporting youth development programmes.

### **Agenda Item 4 The Way Forward**

The guiding youth development paradigm that informs CYP's work in the 2003-2006 Strategic Period was presented by Ignatius Takawira, Head of Youth Affairs. CYP advocated for youth development that puts young people at the centre through Youth Participation, Youth Enterprise Development, Youth Work Education and Training and Youth Networks and Governance. This strategy was seen as forming the basis of CYP's programme and partnership with other agencies. CYMM endorsed the thrust of the CYP as a means to strengthen and enhance the Plan of Action on Youth Empowerment (PAYE) that the 1998 CYMM had approved as a guiding plan for CYP up to the year 2005.

The members of the Pan Commonwealth Youth Caucus articulated the voice of young people vis-à-vis their role in the paradigm and programmes for youth development.

#### **CYP Strategic Plan 2003-2006: Strategic & Operational Plans**

The 2000 CYMM in Solomon Islands approved a programme of work covering the period 2000-2003. This programme of work set in motion the implementation of the Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) until 2005.

Priorities up to the year 2003 embraced five interrelated strategic areas for action:

- ❖ PAYE/Youth Development Index
- ❖ Youth Participation
- ❖ Economic enfranchisement
- ❖ Strengthening Youth Ministries
- ❖ Human Resource Development

These areas were endorsed as the central pillars of CYP's Strategic Plan to the year 2003.

CYMM was informed that the five sub-programmes have been deepened in line with MRG recommendations, the Millennium Development Goals and the 2002 CHOGM Youth for the Future (YFF) mandate. CYP have consolidated the plan to incorporate the YFF strands from the CHOGM 2002 mandates rather than concentrating on the development of new strategic priorities. There are now four strategic programme areas:

- ❖ Youth Enterprise Development (YED)
- ❖ Youth Networks and Governance (YNG)
- ❖ Youth Participation (YP)
- ❖ Youth Work Education and Training (YWET)

CYP presented the Strategic and Operational Plans, which were endorsed by CYMM.

### **CYP Strategic Plan 2003-2006: Budgets**

The proposed 2003-2006 programme budget in support of the Strategic Plan is designed to maximise the impact of programmes through the targeting of activities in each major programming area.

CYMM was informed that CYP Pan Commonwealth action and activities are designed to provide support and assistance to the strategic work plans of the Regional Centres within the Advocacy, Brokerage and Catalytic (ABC) framework and cross-fertilisation of information, ideas and best practice. Levels of funding for each programming area also reflect the degree of priority [YED (30%), YNG (25%), YP (20%) and YWET (25%)] as expressed in the CHOGM YFF, Regional Advisory Boards, Committee of Management and Ministerial Review Group reports. This strategy would support consolidation rather than expansion of existing activities, thus deepening impact and ensuring greater effectiveness.

### ***Issues Emerging from the Discussions with Ministers***

- ❖ **Ghana** emphasised the need for youth to believe in themselves and to channel their energies towards productive participation.
- ❖ **Trinidad and Tobago** questioned budget allocations to projects as compared to administrative costs.
- ❖ **South Africa** sought clarification on the high staff costs.
- ❖ **Malaysia** sought clarification on how budgets for the regions are determined and questioned whether it was in proportion to the youth population of the respective regions.
- ❖ **Kenya** questioned the monitoring and evaluation of the five cost centres.
- ❖ **South Africa** commented that youth development should not be confined to sports and culture as youth development cuts across all other departments.
- ❖ **Namibia** questioned the role of youth in sports, culture and ICT.

### ***Recommendations***

CYMM received the Audited Accounts for 1999/2000, 2000/01, the draft accounts for 2001/02 and the Management Accounts for 2002/03. It also received a report on the proposed pledges for the next Triennium (2003-2006) and on arrears of pledges.

CYMM endorsed the recommendations of the CoM on these finance matters. These recommendations are that:

- ❖ CYP should provide CYMM with an Audit Management Letter;
- ❖ The auditors Grant Thornton extend their review of the Secretariat to include a review of the internal controls of the CYP;
- ❖ CYP examine the method of selection and appointment of regional auditors to be consistent with the practice for external and internal auditors in the Secretariat;
- ❖ CYMM no longer be required to review past accounts or approve forward budgets, as the new governance arrangements would encompass this function; and
- ❖ The audited accounts (1999/2000 and 2000/01), the Draft Accounts (2001/02) and the Management Accounts (2002/03), and the recommendations therein, be forwarded to CYMM for approval.

### **CYMM further recommended that:**

- ❖ The schedule of proposed pledges be noted and member governments should confirm pledges for 2003/04-2005/06 (adjusting for inflation);
- ❖ The current banding scale for calculating assessed pledge contributions be reviewed as anomalies have crept in over the last few years;
- ❖ A note be appended to the proposed pledges table indicating the calculations for the Australian contribution at a higher than expected level. Bilateral consultations with Australia will resolve this anomaly; and
- ❖ Those member countries in arrears be encouraged to settle their outstanding pledges.

### **Programme Priorities 2003-2006**

Four strategic areas (sub-programmes) were presented to CYMM of which the broad outcomes were already presented under the Strategic Plan header. These areas are: youth enterprise development; youth networks and governance; youth participation and; youth work education and training. CYMM was informed that these were developed from the consultations with Regional Advisory Boards and Youth Forum held during October and November 2002.

### ***Youth Enterprise Development (YED) – Synopsis***

CYMM observed that the majority of young people are poorly educated, inappropriately trained and unskilled, and they have unrealistic occupational and wage expectations for entry-level positions. A number of national economies have not been able to generate sufficient job opportunities for their young people, neither have they been able to devise strategies that can deal effectively with the existing situation in their country on a longer-term basis.

This strategic area aims principally to make the case for governments and organisations to attach greater strategic significance to young people as a group, to create and design measures to reduce poverty and promote sustainable livelihoods within this group. CYMM agreed that emphasis on YED should be on training in areas of enterprise creation and management, personal development and general empowerment for young people as a means of reducing unemployment and poverty. This would establish a basis for stimulating and sustaining national economic growth and development for the entire country.

### **Recommendations**

- ❖ Provide opportunities for Enterprise Education and Development
- ❖ Raise capital and mobilise resources to support youth credit and enterprise development.
- ❖ Provide advice and support to youth enterprises through the development of relevant networks.
- ❖ Encourage competition among youth enterprises as a means of motivating them and tapping into their creative and innovative energies.
- ❖ Create the enabling environment for the development of preferential arrangements among youth enterprises.
- ❖ Enhance the ICT capacity of young people as a means of assisting them to enhance the quality of their product, access markets and break the poverty cycle. Ministers urged CYP to expand its efforts in bridging the digital divide through the provision of ICT education and access.

### **Youth Networks and Governance (YNG) – Synopsis**

CYMM recognised that the Youth Networks and Governance is by definition an area of work that cannot succeed without wholehearted engagement with civil society. Most analyses of the forces of shaping societies concentrate on a trinity of players: government, civil society and the private sector. It acknowledged that youth organisations are about creating networks of young people, providing opportunities for them to associate with others, and gain strength from this activity and the social capital it creates to bring about change in themselves and their communities.

### **Recommendations**

- ❖ Provide a safe environment where young people's rights are protected;
- ❖ Provide an example of good governance in the public and private sectors;
- ❖ Encourage good governance in youth network partners;
- ❖ Encourage young people already active in any of the three sectors to participate in these networks.

- ❖ Facilitate engagement of networks with other branches of government, as well as with civil society and private businesses;
- ❖ Raise awareness about successful youth partnerships and networks;
- ❖ Employ Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a means of strengthening youth networks and enhancing the best practices in good governance.

### **Youth Participation (YP) – Synopsis**

CYMM agreed that the Youth Participation area of work has laid the foundation for an analysis of the concepts and ideas behind youth participation. It contended that the challenge for Ministers of Youth is to push the frontiers of the discussion to another level, emphasising local impact, and agreed that the effectiveness of any strategy and tools should have a visible impact on young people in member countries and also at the community level.

### **Recommendations**

- ❖ Create a progressive ideology;
- ❖ Democratised youth structures to support the participation of young people in those organisations;
- ❖ Provide training and support for youth representatives on the values and principles of the Commonwealth;
- ❖ Diversify participation options;
- ❖ Increase funding and other resources in youth programmes to enhance the institutional capacity of these organisations to create space for young people to participate in the governance processes;
- ❖ Democratised the governance of schools and other public sector agencies to enhance the participation of young people in these processes; and
- ❖ Highlight and support localised participation.

### **Youth Work Education and Training (YWET) – Synopsis**

CYMM recognised that the primary task of this area of work is to deepen and stimulate thought and action about youth work training and education. CYMM agreed that this programme area should move from the narrower focus of 'training', to be recast as education. It recommended that youth work training should make a paradigm shift from youth work training to professional education in youth work.

### **Recommendations**

- ❖ Facilitate an environment that enables trainers and learners to engage in education as equals;
- ❖ Increase opportunities for practicums and reflection;
- ❖ Establish a mentoring programme;
- ❖ Utilise trained youth workers as tutors, mentors and advocates across all programmes;

- ❖ Establish alliances with stakeholders and use networks for lobbying and advocacy around youth work; and
- ❖ Professionalise the Youth Work sector.

## CYP Planning Cycle

### *Strategic Planning Cycle*

A report from the Mandates Committee of the Commonwealth Secretariat was presented to CYMM with special reference to findings of the High Level Committee on CYP and its recommendations for its future to be approved by CHOGM. This report commends the work of CYP over 30 years and recommends changing from the three-year strategic planning cycle to a four-year planning cycle in line with that of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

### *Governance Cycle*

CYMM was informed that all Commonwealth governments are represented on the Board of Governors (BoG). It was informed that the Board of Governors meets annually (in May) to give strategic direction on major policy issues, review implementation of CHOGM mandates and approve strategic plans, work programmes and budgets (in a two-year cycle that is synchronised with CHOGM).

The BoG reviews the implementation of CHOGM mandates, thus supplanting the functions of the Commonwealth Senior Officials Meetings in non-CHOGM years.

### *Issues Emerging from the Governance Cycle*

Deputy Secretary-General Mrs Florence Mugasha gave the background to the recommendations put forward by CoM for changes in CYP's governance process. **New Zealand** supported the recommendations, but reiterated the importance of youth representation.

**Mauritius** supported **New Zealand's** comment on the issue of youth representation at all levels and also indicated that CoM should be dissolved in a phased manner. They approved the recommendation put forward by the Deputy Secretary-General.

The CoM informed CYMM that the Mandates Committee report was endorsed by the Board of Governors and suggested that CYMM provide its recommendations to the this committee.

### *Recommendations*

Ministers noted the value of strong youth representation in CYP's governance processes and recommended that the future governance structure should ensure that the Commonwealth's young people actively participate and

are involved in both the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors. Ministers endorsed the proposal to move the CYP to a four-year planning cycle, in line with that of other Secretariat funds.

## **Agenda Item 5 Youth for the Future (YFF) Initiative**

The Hon Larry Anthony, Minister of Family and Community Services, Government of Australia, made a presentation on the **Creating Common Wealth Youth Enterprise Development Forum** to be held in Australia in November 2003. He informed CYMM that YFF was an initiative mooted through the High Level Review Group and presented and endorsed by CHOGM 2002. It was handed over to the Commonwealth Secretariat in April 2002.

He contended that YFF asserts that the Commonwealth's future lies in the hands of its youths who are the inheritors of its fundamental values. Young people assist in promoting respect for diversity, economic and social development, democracy and good governance, and are a major resource in support of these values. The components of the Youth for the Future Initiative comprise:

- ❖ Youth Volunteering
- ❖ Youth Mentorship
- ❖ Youth Leadership
- ❖ Youth Enterprise Development

Mr Anthony shared his hope that the Common Wealth YED conference would facilitate the transfer of much needed skills and knowledge to facilitate youth development across the Commonwealth.

CYMM commended CYP for fully integrating the four strands of YFF into its work plan for 2003-2006.

### *Comments*

- ❖ **Ghana** congratulated the Minister on his presentation, but requested that the issue of Conflict Resolution be addressed in the Entrepreneurship package since it is one of the major drawbacks in the Commonwealth.
- ❖ The **Zambia** Youth Representative felt that the Common Wealth conference would focus mainly on addressing issues of poverty alleviation and bridging the gap between the rich and poor. It was recommended that the upper age limit for participating in the YED conference be increased to 29, to allow the appropriate young people from developing countries in the Commonwealth to participate.
- ❖ **Sri Lanka** expressed concern that in developing countries marketing of products is a bigger problem than the quality of the production.

- ❖ Africa's Youth Co-ordinator enquired whether there was any connection between the Youth Employment Summit (YES) held in Egypt and the proposed **Creating Common Wealth YED Forum** to be held in Australia in November 2003.
- ❖ *The Australian Youth Representative responded that the outcomes of the meetings will be linked with the **Creating Common Wealth YED Forum**.*
- ❖ The **Trinidad and Tobago** Youth Representative enquired whether there would be any value added to the forum with what is already being done in the Caribbean in the CYCI and the Enterprise Development workshops in the South Pacific. In addition, he wondered what would be the tangible outcomes of this new forum.  
*The Australian Youth Representative responded that they would ensure that the forum brings out and showcases best practices from the CYCI Caribbean initiative and the ED Workshops.*
- ❖ The Minister assured CYMM that their requests will be taken into consideration during the planning and implementation of the conference.

## **Agenda Item 6 Ministerial Thematic Key Papers by Lead Speakers**

CYMM received four presentations from eminent speakers identified from three CYP regions. They spoke on four topical issues affecting young people in the Commonwealth. These cross-cutting issues are also core to the CYP's new programming during 2003-2006.

The cross-cutting themes are:

- i. **HIV/AIDS, Poverty and Young People** – presented by Dr Jesse Kagimba, Senior Presidential Adviser on HIV/AIDS, Uganda
  - Main points emerging from the HIV/AIDS, Poverty and Young People presentation**
  - ◆ The high prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) contributes to the spread of HIV/AIDS;
  - ◆ If the health sector had attempted to treat STDs, the incidence of HIV/AIDS would have been reduced by 50 per cent;
  - ◆ People are empowered when they are given skills and knowledge to protect themselves;
  - ◆ Uganda's youth HIV/AIDS population has decreased from 30 per cent to 5 per cent (between 1992-2000) which is a sign of hope;
  - ◆ Thirty-five years ago there was no known treatment for any viruses, but today there are 10 medicines which can control this virus and maybe in another 5 years there could be a cure or a vaccine;
  - ◆ The likelihood of finding a cure for HIV/AIDS is more assured as long as the virus is affecting the developed world.

- ◆ Dr Kagimba appealed to the Commonwealth not to forget Africa. He also contended that malaria and HIV/AIDS are the main killers of humans on the African continent.

- ii. **The Role of IT in Youth Development** – by Mr P Mahajan, MP, India

### **Main points emerging from The Role of IT in Youth Development**

- ◆ ICT is described as the youngest and fastest moving technology today. It is not merely a technology or business, but it is the fourth generation of human communication and is referred to as the digital language (after gestures, spoken language and script);
  - ◆ As ICT continues to create changes in all aspects of development around the world, countries cannot afford to ignore these changes;
  - ◆ For application and achievements of youth development principles, emphasis needs to be put on developing confidence and competence in young people in using technology;
  - ◆ Tomorrow's definition of literacy will change, that is, people who cannot use a computer will be considered illiterate;
  - ◆ ICT has the potential for changing the definition and practice of work and revolutionised the workplace in the future;
  - ◆ ICT offers numerous employment opportunities for youths in various fields;
  - ◆ Increases in employment through ICT can only be implemented through education and supportive government policies;
  - ◆ Ministers were urged to use the **Creating Common Wealth Youth Enterprise Development Forum** as a mechanism for bridging the digital divide.
- iii. **Youth Participation – Taking It To The Next Level** – by Steve Mokwena, CEO, Modjaji Works, South Africa
    - ◆ Youth participation is seen to be ingrained in the broader values of the Commonwealth in terms of human rights, democracy and good neighbourliness;
    - ◆ Youth participation has been misconstrued as simply involving young people in things you do. Rather, it is about creating a society that is prosperous, with young and old being part of the solution seeking process, advancing and unleashing human potentials;
    - ◆ Four issues presented as fundamental to understanding youth participation are the question of power, the right to participate, citizenship and good governance;
    - ◆ Youth participation has been hampered by adults' fear of losing control, the undemocratic cultural and political impasse inherent in our societies, and the fact that young people are seen

fundamentally as being problematic. The process is deemed to be difficult, so some feel it is easier to create a semblance of youth participation than to actually incorporate young people fully into the process.

#### The way forward in advancing youth participation to the next level;

- ◆ Create the awareness that it is not right for young people to be excluded;
- ◆ Create independent youth spaces which will engage young people in sports, and job creation activities;
- ◆ Provide more resources and encourage the growth of activities that young people can do without adult supervision or control;
- ◆ Create a progressive ideology and invest in young people's energy;
- ◆ Democratise the structures of young people participation within the Commonwealth to make them accountable to their peers.

#### iv. Youth Enterprise Development: A strategy for Poverty Reduction – by Graeme Wise, Director, Body Shop Australia

- ◆ Economic development is the basis of job creation and political stability. However young people in many parts of world lack the opportunity to access gainful employment due to remoteness of market, size of population, absence of infrastructure, lack of inspiration and appropriate mentors;
- ◆ Business development is a slow process, which requires dedication and responsible behaviour. The process of business growth creates employment, skills and develops young people so that can take up challenges and responsibilities in the society. It shapes the world and it therefore must be governed by a moral sense of appropriate behaviour;
- ◆ Young people are creative, energetic, and have experienced few disappointments; they are more optimistic and do not know what cannot be done. Society therefore must foster their inputs to replace old and ageing ideas. Create opportunities for them especially those in marginalised society to unearth the potential within them;
- ◆ Four key areas identified as the basis of successful businesses are: education (and continuous education after the formal education), encouragement, mentorship and networking.

#### The Way Forward for Governments

- ◆ Governments should assist in setting up development workshops in countries;
- ◆ Set up education structures that demystify business;
- ◆ Involve business people in discussions about enterprise education;
- ◆ Encourage businesses to put back into their societies by sponsoring business incubators;

- ◆ Celebrate the benefits of business by encouraging attendance of key public officials and successful public figures of all types. These people will help legitimise business creation and can help create business opportunities for young people.

#### Ministerial Thematic Workshops

Six parallel **Ministerial Thematic workshops** were held. Ministers were given opportunities to interrogate the speakers about their presentations during plenary and Ministerial workshops.

The purpose of the Ministerial Thematic workshops was to provide the opportunity for the Ministerial Committee members to examine national and regional priorities, achievements and aspirations in these areas, reflect on Regional and Pan Commonwealth trends, and exchange information on country experiences in order to identify fruitful lines of development.

Members of the CYP Youth Caucus facilitated the Youth Network and Governance workshop.

#### Parallel Sessions

Four separate sessions were held on a) HIV/AIDS, Poverty and Young People; b) Youth Networks and Governance; c) Youth Participation and; d) Youth Enterprise Development.

#### *HIV/AIDS, Poverty and Young People*

##### Issues raised in the HIV/AIDS workshop

Ministers defined the following factors as responsible for the transmission of the virus among youth:

- ❖ Inadequate resources for HIV/AIDS programme implementation;
- ❖ Poverty, unemployment, lack of employable skills to provide a livelihood, particularly for young girls;
- ❖ Spousal separation;
- ❖ Tourism and its related development;
- ❖ Lack of Education and awareness;
- ❖ Influx of refugees;
- ❖ Denial and stigma;
- ❖ Breakdown of socio-cultural factors, eg widow inheritance, female genital circumcision;
- ❖ Child abuse and child defilement;
- ❖ Migration – rural/urban, inter-country, inter-regions and nomadic groups;

#### *Discussion Summary*

The meeting discussed the lack of technical capacity within the Ministries responsible for youths to respond to this pandemic. In light of the presentations made in the

plenary, CYMM expressed concern about the proposed budget allocations to support CYP's work (eg its Ambassadors for Positive Living programme) in this area.

### **Recommendations**

Ministers proposed the following strategies aimed at reducing the impact of the HIV/AIDS virus in the Commonwealth:

- ❖ Behaviour change – especially changing the attitude of young people and adults;
- ❖ Political commitment;
- ❖ Advocacy – breaking down the walls of silence;
- ❖ Step up maternal-to-child transmission programmes;
- ❖ Resource mobilisation to support HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention initiatives;
- ❖ Supportive legal framework;
- ❖ CYP to forge partnerships with regional and global agencies involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness programmes;
- ❖ CYP to co-ordinate its HIV/AIDS work with that of the Commonwealth Secretariat;
- ❖ Make interventions more youth-friendly and holistic as a means of strengthening the CYP's work on the Ambassadors for Positive Living programmes and other awareness initiatives.

### **Youth Networks and Governance**

The issues raised by Ministers in this programming area include the following:

- ❖ Clarify the roles and functions of youth networks in the development process;
- ❖ Address the exclusion of rural youth;
- ❖ Recognising the differentials between urban and rural youth.

### **Recommendations**

Ministers highlighted the following recommendations:

- ❖ Strengthen the role of youth networks and governance structures;
- ❖ Achieve a balance between government and youth structures;
- ❖ Encourage networking between government sectors on youth issues;
- ❖ Strengthen the capacity of national youth representatives;
- ❖ Mainstream youth participation;
- ❖ Ensure effective participation of young people of government at all levels, for example, local government, parliament, etc;
- ❖ Adopt a grass-roots approach to programme implementation;

- ❖ Put a timeframe to the implementation of recommendations in order to make them practicable and measurable.

### **Youth Participation**

The following issues were raised by the Ministers:

- ❖ The importance of having proper procedures for feedback, accountability and evaluation of the work of youth representatives;
- ❖ The creation of a cross-ministerial parliamentary committee on youth issues is an important step in addressing the multi-sectoral nature of youth participation;
- ❖ Use youth-friendly spaces and media to entice young people to participate and learn about democratic structures;
- ❖ Participation of youths at all levels of decision-making within member countries should be encouraged.

### **Recommendations**

Ministers suggested the following recommendations:

- ❖ CYMM should consider a conceptual definition of youth participation drafted by CYP to be binding for all Commonwealth countries;
- ❖ Frequent and ongoing discussion among young people outside of CYMM should be encouraged. Furthermore, there should be a consistency of youth representation as stipulated in the *Youth Forum Handbook*;
- ❖ Governments are urged to make budgetary allocations to facilitate collaboration among non-governmental youth organisations and with governments.

### **Youth Enterprise Development**

The issues raised by the Ministers included:

- ❖ The importance of developing necessary business skills through appropriate and practical training;
- ❖ Developing appropriate work ethics: separating family and business;
- ❖ Changing the mindset of young people, e.g. wages are not the only important consideration;
- ❖ Need for one line ministry with responsibility for Youth Enterprise Development;
- ❖ Encouraging youth businesses through tax incentives and social responsibility;
- ❖ Youth entrepreneurs need to focus their businesses on the future rather than on quick returns;
- ❖ Importance of infra-structural development to support business expansion and development;

- ❖ Ongoing need for micro-credit schemes (loans not grants);
- ❖ Youth workers need to develop an enterprise ethos;
- ❖ Realistic planning; start small and build up;
- ❖ The need for society to celebrate the culture of business;
- ❖ Need for tracer studies to follow up business trainees;
- ❖ Need to restructure co-operatives to support youth enterprise development.

### Recommendations

The Ministers highlighted the following recommendations:

- ❖ Governments should develop a decentralised policy, appropriate legal framework and incentives for young people and businesses to operate also in rural communities (eg free land, tax breaks and other interventions).
- ❖ Importance of promoting family support and involvement when training young people into business by providing credit and other incentives.

## Agenda Item 7 Commonwealth Youth Service Awards

### Change of Name

- ❖ The Commonwealth Youth Service Awards Scheme (CYSA) is designed to recognise and reward the contributions made by young people to the development of their societies. CYMM was informed that the name of the Commonwealth Youth Service Awards is often confused with the National Youth Service Schemes or National Youth Services existing in some countries. In an effort to realign the CYSA with the CHOGM Mandate of Youth for the Future and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), CYMM recommendations are:
  - ❖ The Award should continue to be offered for Youth Organisations involved in Youth Service and Development initiatives;
  - ❖ Commonwealth Youth Service Awards at regional level will now be called Commonwealth Youth Silver Awards and the Pan Commonwealth Award referred to as the Commonwealth Youth Gold Award;
  - ❖ Four Commonwealth Gold Awards will be offered each year, one for each region at the Pan Commonwealth level.
  - ❖ The winners of the 2003 Pan Commonwealth Youth Service Awards are:
 

Nguvukazi Partners Group	Tanzania
Ukomi Bridge Project	Nigeria
Mangaria Youth Community	
Environmental Initiative	Cook Islands

## Agenda Item 8 Financial Matters

- ❖ The CYP audited accounts 1999-2000, 2000-2001, draft accounts 2001-2002, Management Accounts 2002-2003 and proposed pledges for 2003-2006 and a report on arrears on CYP pledges were presented to CYMM.
- ❖ CYMM underscored the need for firm assurances from Ministers so that the approved programme for CYP can be effectively carried out. Heads of delegations were invited to indicate their levels of contributions to CYP over the next three years.

CYMM summarised the Status of CYP's accounting as follows:

- ❖ The financial management of the CYP has been reasonably sound over the past three years;
- ❖ The audits for 1999-2000 and 2000/2001 have been unqualified from all the regional centres. The audit for 2001/2002 remains in draft form;
- ❖ Budgetary utilisation has been optimised during the last three years;
- ❖ Collection of pledges has mixed results over the years, but averaging out at reasonably high levels.

### Issues Emerging from the Financial Reports

Canada queried why there were significant differences between the budgeted amounts and the pledges, and whether it was necessary to pledge more than the budget. The representative further inquired about the excess funds as a result of the elevation of pledges from CYMM 2000.

*The Head of Youth Affairs explained that the discrepancy was caused because the budgeted amounts are projected figures based on 100 per cent payment of pledges. He assured the CYMM that should there be an excess of pledges received, CYP would develop a plan for this as discussed and agreed by CYMM 2000.*

### Recommendations

- ❖ Malawi recommended that in future, explanatory notes should accompany the financial accounts.
- ❖ Future plans are to be instituted to introduce Activity Based Costing (ABC) to provide better allocation and utilisation of cost to centres. This will include an examination of the feasibility of introducing benchmarking for administration costs.
- ❖ CYMM endorsed the Audited Management and Financial Accounts as presented. The proposed pledges were also accepted without amendments.

## Agenda Item 9 Conclusion and Recommendations

The following conclusion and recommendations were approved by CYMM :

## 1 Commitment to Youth Development

- ❖ Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to youth development in the Commonwealth and noted the emergence of a new paradigm guiding the CYP in its work. CYMM commended CYP for the new approach adapted in the strategic programme 2003-2006. The new approach is based on international human rights standards, focusing on such criteria as participation, transparency and accountability in the development and promotion of policy and programmes.

## 2 Commonwealth Youth Caucus

- ❖ The Pan Commonwealth Youth Caucus report and recommendations were received and endorsed by CYMM. These recommendations included, inter alia, the renaming of the Regional Youth Forum as the Regional Youth Caucus, professionalisation of the Caucus, strengthening of youth governance and enhancement of active youth participation. Ministers also noted the importance of governments' incorporating into national policies the institutional framework that embraces youth participation, youth enterprise development and the provision of resources for strengthening governance and networks.

## 3 Ministerial Review Group

- ❖ The progress made by CYP in implementing the recommendations of the Ministerial Review Group adopted at the 2000 CYMM in Solomon Islands by Ministers was applauded. CYMM recommended that project collaboration among divisions of the Commonwealth Secretariat be strengthened to enable CYP to draw on the technical expertise of other divisions.

## 4 Youth Participation

- ❖ The value of young people's participation in Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meetings was recognised by CYMM. Ministers agreed that with immediate effect, national youth representatives would be able to make direct interventions and fully participate in the meetings, at the discretion of the head of their national delegation.

## 5 Four Strategic Priority Areas

- ❖ The CYP Strategic and Operational Plans for 2003-2006, which sets CYP's priorities under four broad strategic areas, were adopted by CYMM. CYP will focus on Youth Enterprise Development, Youth Networks and Governance, Youth Participation and Youth Work Education and Training during the new strategic period 2003-2006. In doing so, relevant youth priorities, particularly the importance of efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, will be highlighted.

## 6 Youth for the Future

- ❖ Ministers commended the progress made on the implementation of the Youth for the Future Initiative

(YFF) which was endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Coolumb, Australia in 2002. They acknowledged that youth volunteering, mentoring, leadership education and enterprise development activities will facilitate the engagement of young people economically, politically and socially, contributing to the elimination of poverty and encouraging sustainable development. They further recognised that these strands will be fully integrated into the operational plans of CYP's strategic programme areas.

- ❖ The central role that programmes such as the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative and the YFF Youth Enterprise Development play in promoting entrepreneurship and alleviating poverty was recognised by CYMM. CYP was encouraged to pursue expansion of youth enterprise initiatives across the Commonwealth. Ministers recommended the proposal to establish a special global fund to promote youth enterprise across the Commonwealth.

## 7 Information and Communication Technology

- ❖ The importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in breaking the cycle of poverty was emphasised by CYMM. CYP was urged to expand its efforts in bridging the digital divide through the provision of ICT education and access to young people.

## 8 HIV/AIDS

- ❖ The primary factors contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and men in the Commonwealth were considered by CYMM. Ministers mandated CYP to continue expanding its work in raising awareness of this pandemic, with reference to specific recommendations: advocacy, peer education and support, promoting behaviour change, and forging partnerships with regional and global agencies. Ministers noted the importance of political will, the involvement of young people in intervention strategies, resource mobilisation, supportive legal frameworks, and programmes to combat mother-to-child transmission and to increase the treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

- ❖ **The CYP Youth Ambassadors for Positive Living Programme.** This programme was commended by Ministers as an innovative means of peer education and support for those living with the virus and noted that the programme, which was initiated in the African Region, has now been expanded and replicated in Asia and the Caribbean.

## 9 Commonwealth Gold and Silver Awards

- ❖ Ministers decided to rename the Commonwealth Youth Service Awards as the Commonwealth Youth Gold Award at the Pan Commonwealth level and the Commonwealth Youth Silver Award at the

Regional level. At the Pan Commonwealth level, four Commonwealth Youth Gold Awards will now be offered instead of three, one for each region.

#### **10 CYP Governance Arrangements**

- ❖ Ministers also recommended that the new governance arrangements should be phased.

#### **11 Finance and Auditing of CYP's Accounts**

- ❖ Ministers recommended that an internal audit process, together with a benchmarking exercise for indirect costs, be carried out in order to ensure effective financial controls of the CYP's resources. CYMM agreed that the formula for calculating pledges should be reviewed in order to preserve the integrity of the fund, and encouraged the early settlement of outstanding pledges.

#### **12 Extra-Budgetary Resources**

- ❖ CYMM noted CYP's efforts to secure extra-budgetary resources and recommended that further efforts to harness these resources be encouraged, provided that such efforts remain consistent with the attainment of CYP's goals and programme mandates.

#### **13 Development Partners**

- ❖ CYMM recognised the contribution of collaborating partner agencies such as Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council, UNICEF, UN Youth Unit and Commonwealth Games Federation in CYP's overall development programmes. CYMM acknowledged with appreciation the added value partners bring to the work of CYP and called for continued collaboration in this regard.

#### **14 The Bahamas to Host CYMM 2006**

- ❖ Ministers accepted with pleasure the offer from the Government of **The Bahamas** to host the next Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in 2006.

# Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting Communiqué

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- 1 Commonwealth Youth Ministers met in Gaborone, Botswana, from 27 May to 30 May 2003 under the theme **Young People: Development Partners against Poverty and HIV/AIDS**. Thirty-seven countries and territories, of which 23 were represented by Ministers, were in attendance. Of these, 29 included young people on their delegations.
- 2 The meeting was opened by HE Mr Festus Mogae, President of the Republic of Botswana, and chaired by the Hon Thebe Mogami, Minister of Labour and Home Affairs. Representatives of the Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Games Federation, Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council, Connect Youth – British Council, the Southern African Development Community, UNICEF, UN Youth Unit and the United States Peace Corps, participated as observers.
- 3 Ministers welcomed the occasion of the meeting as an opportunity to review the progress made by the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) since their last meeting. They reaffirmed their commitment to youth development in the Commonwealth, and noted the emergence of a new paradigm guiding the CYP in its work. This approach is based on international human rights standards, focusing on such criteria as participation, transparency and accountability in the development and promotion of policy and programmes.
- 4 The Meeting received reports from the Pan Commonwealth Youth Caucus and endorsed its recommendations to member governments, the CYP and youth representatives. These recommendations included, inter alia, the renaming of the Regional Youth Forum as the Regional Youth Caucus, professionalisation of the Caucus, strengthening of youth governance and enhancement of active youth participation. Ministers also noted the importance of governments' incorporating into national policies the institutional frameworks that embrace youth participation, youth enterprise development and the provision of resources for strengthening youth governance and networks.
- 5 Ministers endorsed the report of the Committee of Management and commended the Committee's call for strategic and impact assessments necessary for advancing the work of the CYP.
- 6 Ministers acknowledged the progress made by the CYP in implementing the recommendations of the Ministerial Review Group adopted at the 2000 CYMM in Solomon Islands. In particular they recommended that project collaboration among divisions of the Commonwealth Secretariat be strengthened to enable CYP to draw on the technical expertise of other divisions.
- 7 The Meeting recognised the value of young people's participation in Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meetings. Ministers agreed that, with immediate effect, national youth representatives would be able to make direct interventions and fully participate in the meetings, at the discretion of the head of their national delegation.
- 8 Ministers adopted the CYP Strategic and Operational Plan for 2003-2006, which sets the CYP's priorities under four broad strategic areas. The CYP will therefore focus on **Youth Enterprise Development, Youth Networks and Governance, Youth Participation and Youth Work Education and Training**. In so doing, relevant youth priorities, particularly the importance of efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, will be highlighted.
- 9 Ministers commended the progress on the implementation of the Youth For the Future Initiative (YFF) which was endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Coolumbur, Australia, in 2002. Ministers acknowledged that youth volunteering, mentoring, leadership education and enterprise development activities will facilitate the engagement of young people economically, politically and socially, contributing to the elimination of poverty and encouraging sustainable development.
- 10 Ministers recognised the central role that programmes such as the Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative and the YFF Youth Enterprise Development play in promoting entrepreneurship and alleviating poverty. They encouraged CYP to pursue the expansion of youth enterprise initiatives across the Commonwealth. Ministers noted an invitation to attend a Youth Enterprise Development Forum in Australia in November 2003. They further noted a proposal to establish a special global fund to promote youth enterprise across the Commonwealth.

- 11 Ministers emphasised the importance of information and communications technologies (ICT) in breaking the cycle of poverty. They urged the CYP to expand its efforts in bridging the digital divide through the provision of ICT education and access.
- 12 Ministers considered the primary factors contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS among young women and men in the Commonwealth. They mandated CYP to continue expanding its work in raising awareness of the pandemic, with reference to specific recommendations: advocacy, peer education and support, promoting behaviour change, and forging partnerships with regional and global agencies. They noted the importance of political will, the involvement of young people in intervention strategies, resource mobilisation, supportive legal frameworks, and programmes to combat mother-to-child transmission and to increase the treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- 13 Ministers commended the CYP Youth Ambassadors for Positive Living Programme as an innovative means of peer education and support for those living with the virus. They noted that the programme, initiated in the Africa region, had now been replicated in Asia and the Caribbean.
- 14 Ministers decided to rename the Commonwealth Youth Service Awards as the Commonwealth Youth Gold Award and the Commonwealth Youth Silver Award and to increase the number. At the Pan Commonwealth level, four Commonwealth Youth Gold Awards will now be offered, one for each region. In each of the four regions, five Commonwealth Youth Silver Awards will be offered. Ministers commended the winners of three Pan Commonwealth awards, for innovative projects in the Cook Islands, Nigeria, and the United Republic of Tanzania, announced at the meeting.
- 15 Ministers noted a proposal to review the CYP governance arrangements and in particular to dissolve the Committee of Management. They discussed the possibility of this being done in a phased manner. They noted the value of strong youth representation in CYP processes and recommended that the future governance structure should ensure that the Commonwealth's young people actively participate and be involved in both the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors. Ministers endorsed the proposal to move the CYP to a four-year planning cycle, in line with that of other Secretariat funds.
- 16 Ministers recommended that an internal audit process together with a benchmarking exercise for indirect costs be carried out in order to ensure effective financial controls of the CYP's resources. They agreed that the formula for calculating the pledges should be reviewed in order to preserve the integrity of the fund, and encouraged the early settlement of outstanding pledges.
- 17 Ministers noted the CYP's efforts to secure Extra-Budgetary Resources. They recommended that further efforts to harness these resources be encouraged, provided that such efforts remain consistent with the attainment of the CYP goals and programme mandates.
- 18 Ministers received reports from collaborating partners: Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council, UNICEF, UN Youth Unit and Commonwealth Games Federation. They acknowledged with appreciation the added value partners bring to the work of CYP and called for continued collaboration in this regard.
- 19 Ministers accepted with pleasure the offer from the Government of The Bahamas to host the next Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in 2006.

## Message to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2003

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Young people constitute two-thirds of the Commonwealth's population. They represent the current vibrancy of the Commonwealth and the hope for our future development, productivity and prosperity through the promotion of Commonwealth values.

Ministers of Youth from the Commonwealth, at our meeting in Gaborone, Botswana in May 2003, under the theme **Young People: Development Partners Against Poverty and HIV/AIDS**, endorsed the vision of the CYP for young people to maximise their participation in development and democracy, shaping the present and future of their communities and societies.

We recognise the new approach to engaging with young people must include sensitivity to the human rights of young people and stronger accountability frameworks with more genuine consultative processes.

Whilst cognisant of the diverse nature of national development, we acknowledge the need for increased resource allocation, political commitments and democratic structures to facilitate increased youth development. Ministers invite Heads of Government to give greater priority to incorporating the CYP strategic programme areas into their National Development Plans.

Youth Ministers are mindful of the need to streamline the governance mechanisms and cycle of the CYP to be in harmony with other Secretariat funds.

The attached Communiqué sets out the way forward for the next three years. We are sure that CHOGM will confirm our deliberations.

**Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting**  
Gaborone, Botswana  
30 May 2003

# Report from the CYP Committee of Management (CoM)

## Major Issues and Recommendations

The Committee of Management met in Gaborone, Botswana on Tuesday May 27 2003, in advance of the 4<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting. The following are the major issues discussed and recommendations emerging from the discussions of the meeting.

### *Representation of Youth on CoM*

CoM considered the role of youth representatives at the CYMM and recommended to CYMM that youth representatives on their countries' delegation to CYMM be entitled to participate as full members, at the discretion of their country delegation.

### *CYP Progress Report*

Whereas the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the overarching goals of the programme, the CYP should identify objectives at a more relevant level and these should be stated in more specific terms to enable measurement and reporting on impact and outcomes of the CYP's interventions.

- ❖ The CoM noted that the targets for formulating National Youth Policies had been met but recommended member governments focus on implementation to ensure actions and programmes were delivered for the benefit of youth.
- ❖ Member governments should provide greater levels of support to the national Regional Youth Forum representatives to facilitate and enhance the performance in undertaking their responsibilities.
- ❖ The CoM applauded the progress made to raise the profile of the CYP within the international community but recognised that young people across the Commonwealth had little appreciation of the Commonwealth and the CYP. The CoM therefore recommended that the CYP give higher priority to promoting the Commonwealth and the CYP to the young people of the Commonwealth.
- ❖ Whilst tremendous effort has been put into securing extra-budgetary resources (EBR), it was recognised that a significant proportion of EBR are secured from member governments' as 'in kind' contributions when they host events in collaboration with the respective Regional Centres.

Though more effort should be put into harnessing external sources, the CYP should be cautious of the level of time and effort required for mobilising and managing effectively these EBR and that the effort put into resource mobilisation is justified, does not distort CYP from its priority activities and is not at the expense of programme implementation.

- ❖ The Commonwealth Youth Credit Initiative (CYCI) has had significant impact amongst young people who have accessed it. The CoM recognises that, given the success of the pilot intervention of the CYCI and the current imperatives of youth unemployment, the programme should be expanded to areas that have not so far benefited. A special global fund to promote youth enterprise across the Commonwealth could be considered. In the absence of additional funds, new partnerships would be required. Further, the expansion of youth enterprise development activities should be undertaken as part of the enterprise development mandates under the Youth for the Future Initiative.
- ❖ The CoM recognises that there is a growing need to address increasing crises associated with youth development but cautioned against expanding the current mandates of the CYP. The areas in which CYP has a comparative advantage should continue to be the main focus of the programme's intervention.

### **Ministerial Review Group Report on CYP Performance**

The Committee of Management endorsed the progress report on the CYP implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Review Group (MRG). The CoM acknowledged the progress made by the CYP and made the following comments:

- ❖ The CYP is encouraged to continue its efforts to reduce its administrative costs;
- ❖ The CoM supported the increased status of the Regional Advisory Boards (RABs);
- ❖ CoM recommended CYP undertakes a further examination of the approach proposed by the MRG for allocation of the CYP budget, including an examination of the feasibility of introducing benchmarking for administration costs;

- ❖ The CoM also endorsed the recommendation that the CYP establish stronger collaborative links with other technical areas of the Secretariat as well as forming partnerships with international donors and regional organisations;
- ❖ Whilst there are tremendous benefits to be derived from the mobilisation of EBR, CoM noted the potential for distortion in the strategic alignment of the programme as well as the possible distraction of effort away from management and implementation of core programmes.

### Commonwealth Youth Service Awards

A paper outlining a proposed name change for the Commonwealth Youth Service Awards (CYSA) to the Commonwealth Youth Development Award (CYDA) was submitted to the CoM.

CoM recommended to the CYMM that:

- ❖ The CYSA be now known as the Commonwealth Youth Silver Award (CYSA) at the regional level and that one of these be awarded a Commonwealth Youth Gold Award (CYGA);
- ❖ Four CYGAs will be offered each year, one for each region at the Pan Commonwealth level; and,
- ❖ The awards should continue to be for youth organisations involved in youth service and development initiatives.

### CHOGM Mandates – Youth for the Future

The objectives of the Youth for the Future Initiative (YFF) are:

- ❖ To enlist the skills and enthusiasm of young people to assist development across the Commonwealth in the 21st century;
- ❖ To promote adherence to Commonwealth fundamental values; and,
- ❖ To strengthen Commonwealth members' ability to address poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals by tapping into the skills, knowledge and energy of young people and enhancing their social and economic integration across the Commonwealth.
- ❖ CoM received a progress report on implementation of the YFF, including the development of the Website and planning for the Youth Enterprise Summit (November 2003).

### Regional Advisory Boards

CoM received reports from the four regions and made the following recommendations:

- ❖ Celebrations to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CYP be incorporated into those for 2004 Commonwealth Day, rather than as separate commemorations; and,

- ❖ That the current Commonwealth definition of youth remains unchanged (15-29 years).

### Pan Commonwealth Youth Caucus Report

CoM endorsed the report submitted by the Chair of the Pan Commonwealth Youth Caucus.

### CYP Strategic and Operational Plans and Budget 2003-2006

CoM endorsed the Strategic and Operational Plan for 2003-2006, after appropriate amendments.

### CYP Governance – Proposed Changes

CoM discussed the proposed governance changes arising out of the Intergovernmental Mandates Committee. Additional explanatory background on the Mandates Committee recommendations was provided to the Committee.

- ❖ Some CoM members expressed concerns over a number of the recommendations of the Committee, in particular the proposal to dissolve the CoM, the implications of the integration of the CYP planning and budget processes into the four-year cycle adopted by the Commonwealth Secretariat and, the importance of mechanisms to allow for continuation of youth inputs into the CYP management and programme activities.
- ❖ The CoM noted the Mandates Committee report had been endorsed by the Board of Governors. It recommends CYMM provide the following comments to the Mandates Committee to be submitted with its report to the CoW/CHOGM.
- ❖ The new governance proposal should be phased in over a period.
- ❖ CoM stressed the importance of mechanisms to ensure strong and continued inputs from young people into the CYP through the possibility of youth representation on both the Executive Committee and the Board in order for their views to be included in the whole of the governance arrangements.

### Financial Matters

CoM received the Audited Accounts for the 1999/2000, 2000/01, the draft accounts for 2001/02 and the Management Accounts 2002/03. It also received a report on the proposed pledges for the next triennium (2003-2006) and on arrears of pledges.

CoM discussed the reports and recommended that:

- ❖ The CYP should provide CoM with an Audit Management Letter;
- ❖ The KPMG consultants extend their review of the Secretariat to include a review of the internal controls of the CYP;

- ❖ It was suggested that CYP examine the method of selection and appointment of regional auditors to be consistent with the practice for external and internal auditors in the Secretariat;
- ❖ CYMM no longer be required to review past accounts or approve forward budgets, as the new governance arrangements would encompass this function; and,
- ❖ The Audited Accounts (1999/2000 and 2000/01), the draft Accounts (2001/02) and the Management Accounts (2002/03), and the recommendations therein, be forwarded to CYMM for approval.

CoM also recommended that:

- ❖ CYMM note the schedule of proposed pledges and request member governments to confirm the pledges for 2003/04 to 2005/06 (as adjusting for inflation);
- ❖ The current banding scale for calculating assessed pledge contributions be reviewed as anomalies have crept in over the last few years;
- ❖ A note be appended to the proposed pledges table indicating the calculation for the Australian contribution a higher than expected level. Bilateral consultations with Australia will resolve this anomaly, and,
- ❖ CYMM encourage those member countries in arrears to settle their outstanding pledges.

## CoM membership for 2003-2006

The following members were selected as CoM members:

- ❖ **Africa**  
Botswana, Kenya, Nigeria, United Kingdom and Zambia
- ❖ **Asia**  
India, Malaysia and Maldives
- ❖ **Caribbean**  
Canada, Guyana, and Jamaica
- ❖ **South Pacific**  
Australia, Kiribati, and New Zealand
- ❖ **Youth Caucus Chair**  
India

# Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting

## Delegations and Secretariat

### Australia

Hon Larry ANTHONY  
*Minister for Children and Youth Affairs*

Ms Ruth GIBSON  
*Adviser to the Minister*

Ms Glenys BEAUCHAMP  
*Acting Deputy Secretary  
Department of Family and Community Services*

Mr Matt DAVIES  
*Assistant Secretary  
Youth Bureau Policy and Promotions Branch*

Ms Rachel NICHOLSON  
*Youth Representative*

### The Bahamas

Mr Carl J BRENNEN  
*Under Secretary  
Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture*

Ms Autherine TURNQUEST  
*Acting Director of Youth  
Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture*

Mr Mortimer SANDENA  
*Youth Representative*

### Barbados

Mr Richard CARTER  
*Director of Youth Affairs*

### Botswana

Hon Thebe MOGAMI  
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Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs*

Hon Lesego MOTSUMI  
*Assistant Minister  
Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs*

Mr B K SEBELE  
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Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs*

Ms Lilian R MPOTOKWANE  
*Deputy Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Labour and Home Affairs*

Mr Gaogakwe PHORANO  
*Director of Culture and Youth  
Department of Culture and Youth*

Mr P D MAKGALEMELE  
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Botswana National Youth Council*

Ms Mogogi KOJANE  
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Department of Culture and Youth*

Mr Shimane KELAOTSWE  
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London*

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*Youth Representative*

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Dato Haji Dani Hj IBRAHIM  
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Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports*

Mr Japar BANGKOL  
*Director of Youth and Sports*

Mrs Hjh Adina OTHMAN  
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Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports*

Mr Hj Abdul Malik Hj MOHAMMAD  
*Head of Youth  
Department of Youth and Sports*

Mr Ibrahim Hj SABLİ  
*National Youth Council  
Youth Caucus*

Mr Abdul Rahim Hj MOHD RAIS  
*PA to the Minister*

### Cameroon

Hon Bidoung M KPATT  
*Minister of Youth and Sport*

Mrs Mua Anne EP  
*Delegate*

Mr Tar Petronilla MBUN  
*Youth Representative*

### Canada

Mr Mark VCISLO  
*Political Officer  
Canada High Commission  
Harare*

### Fiji Islands

Hon Isireli LEWENIQILA  
*Minister of Youth, Employment Opportunities and Sports*

Mr Poasa RAVEA  
*Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Youth, Employment Opportunities and Sports*

Mr William NAISARA  
*Head of Research*  
*Ministry of Youth, Employment Opportunities and Sports*

Mr Fipe Takayawa TUITUBOU  
*Librarian*

### Ghana

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Mr Amoa Kwaku GYARTENG  
*Chief Director*  
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Mr Joe MANTEY  
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*National Youth Council*

Mr Etse SIKANKU  
*CYP Regional Youth Representative*

### India

Hon Vikram VERMA  
*Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports*

Mr R SRIVASTAVA  
*Secretary*  
*Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports*

Mr R K MISHRA  
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*Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports*

Mr Deepak SINGH  
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Mr L T MUANA  
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Mr M L BAJAJ  
*First Secretary*

Mr Dev Suman SINDHU  
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*Chair, Pan Commonwealth Youth Caucus*

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Mr Ali Bunow KORANE  
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HE Mr Binsai J Chepsongol  
*High Commissioner*

Ms Anne Lisalitsa AMBWERE  
*Commissioner for Social Services*

Dr Angela LANGENKAMP  
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Ms M Josephine MURIUKI  
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Mr M E HIRIBAE  
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Mr Nahenza Daniel MANGALE  
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### Kiribati

Hon Iuta TAOMATI  
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Mrs Karibaiti TAOABA  
*Permanent Secretary*

### Lesotho

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*Minister*

Mr Teboho KITLELI  
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Mr Tsoanelo MATHAFENG  
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Mr Monageng SEITIHEKO  
*Youth Representative*

Mr L HLALELE

Mr M TSIEME

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Mr Velayutham RATNAM  
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Mr Jeff BOST  
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Mrs Omowumi OVIE-AFABOR  
Secretary

## Eminent Speakers

Dr Jesse KAGIMBA  
Senior Presidential Adviser on HIV/AIDS  
Uganda  
Mr Pramod MAJAHAN  
Member of Parliament and Former Minister of IT  
India  
Mr Steve MOKWENA  
CEO  
ModjajiWorks, South Africa  
Mr Graeme WISE  
CEO  
Body Shop, Australia

## Regional Centres

### Africa Centre

Mr Eniwet KAKUWA  
Acting Regional Director  
Ms Marian KPAKPAH  
Senior Programme Officer

### Asia Centre

Mrs Raka RASHID  
Regional Director  
Mr Hassan SHIFAU  
Senior Programme Officer  
Ms Shirani RAJAPAKSE  
Senior Programme Officer

### Caribbean Centre

Mr Armstrong ALEXIS  
Regional Director  
Ms Glenys JAMES  
Senior Programme Officer

### South Pacific Centre

Mr Peceli VIRIKI  
Senior Programme Officer  
Ms Irene PAULSEN  
Senior Programme Officer

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Ms Mulako MWANAMWALYE  
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Ms Segametsi MOATLHAPING  
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Mr Akash MUZAHID  
Regional Youth Co-ordinator  
Asia  
Mr Damien HUGHES  
Regional Youth Co-ordinator  
Caribbean  
Ms Jeanine DANIEL  
Regional Youth Co-ordinator  
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Mrs Lillian Mpotokwane  
Chairperson  
Mr Gaogakwe Phorano  
Director of Culture and Youth  
Ms Sponile Sibusibi  
Conference Co-ordinator  
Ms Mogogi Kojane  
Secretary  
Ms Ruth Bailang  
Mrs Dineo Phuti  
Mr Bakang Lesole  
Mr Rudolf Mojalemotho  
Mr Dikgang Makgalemele  
Mr Simon Tau  
Mr Dickson Gabanakgosi  
Ms Segametsi Moatlhaping

Ms Mpho Makhema  
Prof Kwaku Osei-Hwedie  
Mr Karabo Mokoto  
Mr Jullian Mokgatle  
Dr Morena Rankopo  
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Mrs Motshwari Mabote  
Senior Superintendent Joseph Motlhagodi  
Superintendent A D Melore  
Major Charlbwa  
Ms Tinah Molatlhegi

Mr Lebogang Tuelo  
Mr Ketlhomilwe Moletsane  
Mr Epena Ngatangue  
Ms Kutlapye  
Ms Gosata Rabantheng  
Mr Brighton Tiro  
Ms Karabo Ramothibe  
Mr Olefile Pule  
Mr Phenyso Mogae  
Mr Tshiamonyana





COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME

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COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT