



16 June 2023

Press Release - National Youth Day (16 June 2023)

"Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future."

16 June 2023 marks the 47th anniversary of the June 16 Soweto uprising which ended tragically with hundreds of young people brutally killed. This tragedy became a rallying point that inspired South Africa as a nation and its people to rise up against the brutal apartheid system. Following the advent of democracy in 1994, the new democratic government declared 16 June as National Youth Day and June as Youth Month. This year National Youth Day and Youth Month will be celebrated under the theme: "**Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future**".

CoRMSA acknowledges the positive contributions made by the youth and migrant youth in various socio-economic spheres of South Africa. Subsequent to the democratic gains that were attained through the contribution of the youth of 1976, CoRMSA calls today's youth to influence change in our contemporary societies that are consumed by xenophobia, violence and discrimination by partaking in rebuilding a cohesive and harmonious society. Undocumented youth are denied access to basic education and health care which decelerate the youth economic emancipation, leading to an unsustainable future.

CoRMSA also takes this opportunity to educate the general public that asylum seekers, refugees and migrant youth also contribute equally to the South African economy and their rights must be respected just like their fellow South Africans. CoRMSA strongly believes that the Youth of 1976 fought to liberate all of us from the injustices of our past and not to promote disintegration and an unjust society.

While celebrating this day, we should also take this opportunity to remember the benevolence of the 1976 youth in fighting against oppression and strive for better opportunities for all and implement programmes that promote the economic opportunities for all the youth including migrant youth. In light of this, CoRMSA also calls the government to promote an inclusive economy through initiating various youth development and empowerment initiatives to support young people including migrant youths. This also includes upholding the freedom, democratic values and human rights that the 1976 youths fought for, which includes access to education, healthcare services and documentation regardless of one's nationality or race. By so doing, there will be a definite "**Acceleration of youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future.**"

For more information, contact us on 011 403 7560/0032/0033