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National Heritage Council
SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA RELEASE

To All Editors

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Challenge to youth celebrating June 16

The National Heritage Council of South Africa is wishing the country a “revovisionary” celebration of Youth Day on 16 June as we remember the efforts of the many young people who sacrificed their lives to fight for freedom. This year’s celebrations are iconic in marking a turning point in the contribution of young people of a democratic society. Many young people who were part of this historic 1976 youth uprising that played out in Soweto as the landmark, are now over 35 years. The generation of the year 1976, have come of age as the country celebrates the 36th anniversary of June 16 this year. The vexing question is what role should young people play in shaping the country?

One often neglected role of each generation is the importance of informing the youth about the heritage that is derived from historic tuning points such as the June 16 march and its related activities. It is our role as society to ensure that this history is not only for schools to teach. The question of how we turn the commemoration into a celebration should start now as this event, June 16, comes of age and enters a new era. It is worth celebrating the democracy that it brought to both the previously oppressed and oppressors.

The NHC joins the country in celebrating the day and our staff will wear school uniform as a symbolic gesture.

Ends.

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