



YOUNG PEOPLE CAME OUT IN NUMBERS TO ATTEND THE DDP'S 4TH ANNUAL YOUTH INDABA AT MARINE PARADE, GARDEN COURT.

DDP YOUTH INDABA 2019

: Youth and Identity Building in a Complex Democracy

ISSUE 5- 12-13 JUNE 2019

Youth Indaba: Tackling Identity, Unemployment and Other Issues Affecting Young People

By **Lizeka Maduna**

As we commemorate Youth Month, the Democracy Development Program (DDP) in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung brought the youth together through its 4th Annual Youth Indaba; to tackle issues affecting young people and find solutions.

Identity, which remains South Africa's complex factor since the apartheid era keeps on being part of the agenda in many different spaces; but, how has this resonated with the youth, one would certainly wonder.

The two-day event hosted by DDP at Marine Parade, Garden Court on June 12 and 13, was an insightful gathering aimed at provoking and unpacking burning yet necessary conversations around complexities of identity in a South African context.



From far left is KAS' Mr. Henning Suhr, DDP's Dr Paul Kariuki, UKZN's Dr Isaac Khambule, Mr. Mkhoma and Mrs Ntombi Mkhoma founder and CEO of Lucretia.

Renowned political analyst and researcher Lukhona Mnguni set the tone in his keynote address, themed 'Identity building as a young person in a complex democracy'. Mnguni did justice in breaking down identity in a South African, where one's identity is often a burden.

"The theme of the conference is complex, but I will try and discuss both group and individual identities.

They are both useful and important," Mnguni says.

While making his address, Mnguni noted the complexities of identity in South Africa due to different theories and pedagogical factors. In a democratic country where the history is deeply rooted on past injustices, young people often find it difficult to channel into, and navigate spaces

This year's youth Indaba brought about many conversations around various focus areas, including identity, which is a symptom of South Africa's past, social policy making and youth; and social entrepreneurship and education.

Mbali Mkhize, the event coordinator said it was time for young people to take matters into their own hands and change drivers.



Event coordinator Mbalenhle Mkhize spearheading a session during day 2 of Youth Indaba.

ventures for young people to grow themselves [...read more](#)

"We decided that it was time for the youth to come together and provoke conversations around issues affecting them, especially the topic of identity and how they understand it in a South African context," Mkhize said.

Young people often find themselves in a corner where they feel voiceless and excluded, due to a pervasive idea that they are indifferent to the participation in any activity concerning the country. However, the turnout at the Youth Indaba

sought to change that narrative. The venue was packed to capacity with young vibrant minds, whose radicalism speaks to the core of who they really are and what they want in life.

The program was filled with different emotions with a visible sign of being unapologetic about being young and ready to provoke unsettling conversations for a better future.

South Africa, because of its history, has had hiccups in identifying itself

The conference was attended by youth from around the KZN province, Mpumalanga and the Western Cape. Young business owners had an opportunity to exhibit and showcase their businesses. Civil society groups, young politicians, academics and learners attended this significant event.



Young people in business came and exhibited their work at the Youth Indaba Conference.



DDP Executive Director, Dr Paul Kariuki extending votes of thanks to Mr. Nkosentsha Khumalo of the KwaZulu-Natal legislature.

Tags: [Youth Month](#), [identity](#), [Africa](#), [democracy](#), [DDP](#), [policies](#), [unemployment](#), [youth](#), [KAS](#), [politics](#)

For more pictures please [click here](#) or visit our website at [ddp.org.za](#)

Pictures: Willy Chikuru & SAC,
Layout & Design: Sthabiso Mdllele