

# Freedom

## PARK TRUST

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### **Freedom Park Trust and partners engage with the Youth to Celebrate the 32nd Anniversary of 1976 Youth Uprisings**

12 June 2008, Pretoria, On 14 June 2008, the Freedom Park Trust, together with its partners, African Renaissance Organisation of Southern Africa (AROSA), Indigenous Knowledge Systems of South Africa Trust (iKSSA) and The South Africa Chapter of the African Renaissance (SACAR), commemorate the 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the 1976 youth uprisings, by hosting a youth conference entitled *Youth as Bearers of Knowledge and Heritage*. The event takes place at The Freedom Park on Salvokop in Pretoria and is geared specifically towards mobilising the South African youth to understand and embrace their heritage and culture.

This initiative forms part of the Freedom Park Trust's nation-wide public awareness campaign and builds upon previous events, such as the mobilisation of the Khoi-San youth and well as youth conferences held on 16 December 2007. The campaign, which focuses on sensitising the nation, and more specifically the youth, to the importance of history, heritage and culture, includes collaboration with the Department of Education to link The Freedom Park and what it represents to the heritage outcome in the national curriculum.

"The Freedom Park is the heartbeat of all that is South African – our history, heritage and culture. A visit to the Park reveals the reality of exactly how vast, varied and rich our heritage and history is. Our mandate with the public awareness campaign is thus equipping our youth with an understanding of themselves and those around them by ingraining a deep appreciation for where we come from, the events that shaped where we are today and the diversity that characterises our nation," explains Dr M.W. Serote, CEO of the Freedom Park Trust.

"The historical significance of 16 June is well known internationally as an event that changed the course of history. Our objective with this specific workshop is thus to instil a sense of pride but also of responsibility in our youth – a sense of pride for what those before them have accomplished and a sense of responsibility for the tremendous task resting on their shoulders. Nobody can dispute that our youth is our future. Investing and educating our youth is thus an investment in the future of our country."

"Nurturing our youth is a long-term process and one from which we will reap the rewards for generations to come. Our programme for this workshop include engaging the youth invited from across the nine provinces on five specific issues, namely heritage, culture, history, Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and our national symbols. By allowing our youth value and appreciate our cultural diversity as a treasure and wealth of our nation, we are in essence strengthening social cohesion and therefore contributing to

reconciliation and nation building. Our purpose is to empower and educate, but also to spark a sense of passion and pride.

“We envision the programmes to result in courageous young people, proud to be South African and African, fully conscious of the challenges that the country face and, more importantly, eager to shoulder the responsibility resting on the youth’s shoulders to work through these challenges for a brighter future.”

“We are presenting an opportunity for the youth to become part of the solution instead of the problem. Elders will address this conference on issues such as humanity and respect, moral values and life skills.”

The Freedom Park is currently open for visits. At present, entrance is free. Tours take place daily at 9:00, 12:00 and 15:00. For more information on tours and visits, call 079 837 9092 or email [tours@freedompark.co.za](mailto:tours@freedompark.co.za).

**Issued by The Freedom Park Trust  
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