



NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA
(NYC)



"Youth growing with the Nation"

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION – 15th October 2021

RE: The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October 2021 and launch of Civil Society Manifesto for the Eradication of Poverty in Namibia

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is held annually on 17 October to provide:

- an opportunity to acknowledge the effort and struggle of people living in poverty;
- a chance for them to make their concerns heard; and
- a moment to recognize that poor people are the first ones to fight against poverty.

Through resolution 47/196, adopted on 22 December 1992, the UN General Assembly declared 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and invited all States to devote the Day to presenting and promoting, as appropriate in the national context, concrete activities with regard to the eradication of poverty and destitution.

It is against this background that civil society formations will be observing this day in Namibia under the international theme given by the United Nations. The Theme for the 2021 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is **Building forward together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting all People and our Planet.**

Main event will be held on Sunday, 17 October 2021 at the UNITED NATIONS PLAZA in Katutura, Windhoek from 12h00 – 15h00! Preceding the main event will be Procession/March at 11h30 from two points in Katutura along Independence Avenue, namely from the Soweto Market and Central Shops (Groot Winkels) to the UN PLAZA. Highlight of the day will be the launch of the “Civil Society Organizations Manifesto for the Eradication of Poverty in Namibia”. The ten (10) Demands on the Manifesto will be presented by 10speakers selected from various civil society organizations including church and youth formations. United Nations representatives in Namibia will deliver the message from the United Nations Secretary General and government representative will also be receiving the Manifesto for the Eradication of Poverty. Manifesto will address critical issues including on social protection, land reform, education, health, job creation, climate change and combating of corruption.

As part of this weekend’s program to observe International Day for Eradication of Poverty, the Economic and Social Justice Trust under the auspices of the Basic Income Grant Coalition of Namibia will be hosting a concert on Saturday, 16th October 2021 starting 19h00 at Café Prestige (Franco Namibia Cultural Centre, Robert Mugabe Avenue). The Concert is FREE OF CHARGE. This event under the theme *#NoOneLeftBehind* Concert’s lineup includes *Emily Dangwa, Tapz, Ashwyn Mberi, Diolini, Stanley Mareka, Anne Hambuda, Leonard, Witbeen, Ou Billem, Y van Paul, Golden, Star Keys, Lamek Ndjaha etc...!*

These events are being organized and coordinated by the National Youth Council of Namibia, Council of Churches in Namibia (CCN) and the Desk for Social Development of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (DfSD-ELCRN) with the support and active involvement of youth organizations, churches, NGOs and broader civil society.

After the ceremony on Sunday, the organizations that are coordinating and hosting the event will convene youth leaders, church leaders and activist from civil society organizations to design and roll-out a national advocacy plan to put pressure on government and other stakeholders to implement the Manifesto for the Eradication of Poverty.

We are observing the International Day for Eradication of Poverty at a time, when, despite multiple interventions and investments in critical areas of socio-economic development since independence, more than three decades later, Namibia is still characterized by depressing levels of inequality, poverty, and unemployment. In respect of poverty, the 2019 Human Development Report Namibia shows that 38.0 percent of the Namibian population are multidimensionally poor while an additional 20.3 percent are classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty.

With a Gini coefficient of 0.57, Namibia is amongst the top three countries with the highest levels of income inequality in the world. The unemployment rate in the country varies between 28.5 percent (limited definition) and 51.4 percent (using the broad definition) and unemployment amongst young people aged 15 to 34 years stood at a staggering 46.1 percent in 2018. A recent Bloomberg report indicated that Namibia has the 2nd highest unemployment rate in the world.

The Namibia Inter-censal Demographic Survey Report shows that by 2016 about 40 per cent (39.7%) of urban households throughout the country reside in informal settlements where the living conditions are, generally, shocking, and intolerable amounting to an assault on human dignity. In 2018, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency, white Namibians and foreigners owned 27 million hectares of the total of 39 million hectares i.e., 70.1% of freehold agricultural (commercial) land in the country, leaving the majority of Namibians landless, poor and without a livelihood, a legacy of colonialism that is unresolved three decades after independence.

To make matters worse, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced many people into precarious economic situations with little hope to recover from this shock if current trends continue. Hence the need for urgent and decisive action against poverty.

NB! All media houses are invited to cover the program on Sunday 17th October 2021 from 11h00 to 15h00.

For further enquiries on the program and related matters!

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