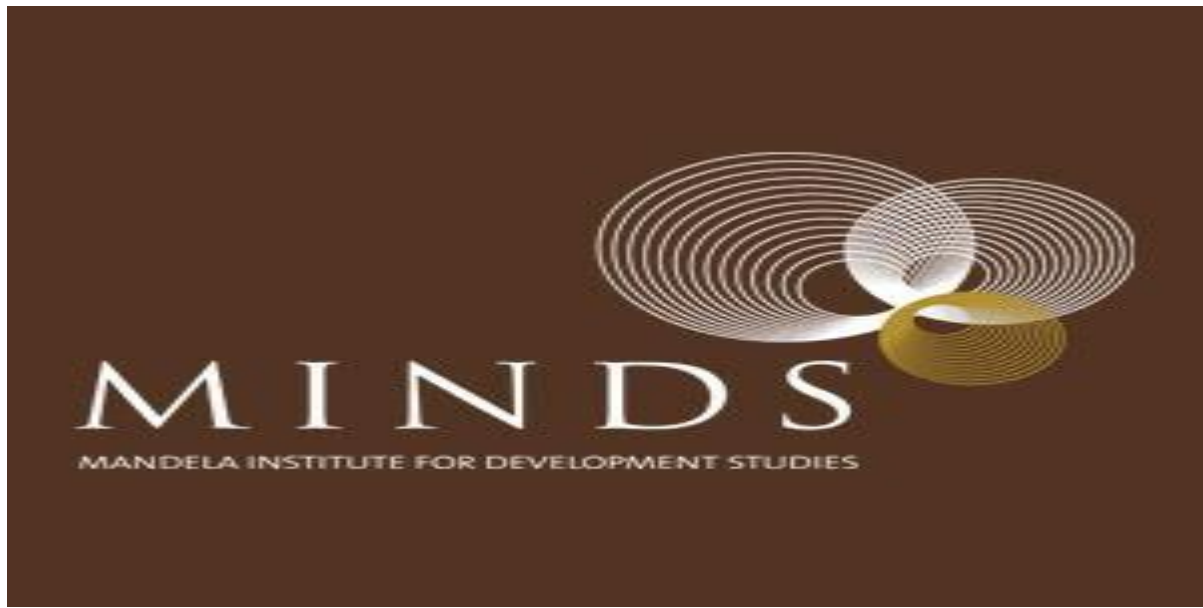


**SUMMARY OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MANDELA INSTITUTE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES  
ANNUAL AFRICAN YOUTH DIALOGUE ON ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE IN  
AFRICA**



Mandela Institute Development Studies (MINDS) is 3 years old and the institute was launched in Addis Ababa in 2012 and it has made credible changes the continent.

Professor Nkosana Moyo the founder and Executive Director asks why Mandela Institute Development Studies? MINDS was launched because the African continent is underperforming since the gain of African independence and left to be in charge of itself and therefore creating our space as Africans to come together to discuss our problems and issues that have to do our country development and share our aspirations openly and be honest to ourselves.

The big question is why we are where we are and how to we fix it? This why we rationale for MINDS conversations to create space for internal and honest conversations.

First MINDS focusses on the African research heritage programs despite the fact that African is the only continent non-compliant and no talking to us the truth being the institutions that are there are foreign-based. Therefore MINDS meetings and workshops are held in Africa to promote knowledge to future leaders and how African issues can be solved despite the fact it is now commonly given challenges

Secondly MINDS focuses on the High level dialogue series on the post-colonization interest and the role the play.

Lastly MINDS focuses on Annual African youth dialogue to facilitate leaders of tomorrow, the current generation and youth leaders to get exposure from our leaders of today what they are doing successfully and as Africans to get to know the continent and interrogate the current levels on African youths' involvement in electoral and governance process on the continent. The first Annual African Youth dialogue was held in Accra, Ghana last year at Kofi Annan centre where they managed to get 23 African countries participating. This year they managed to get 38 countries participating with 103 participants.



Using the following criteria to select participant to participate in the youth dialogues and workshops on Elections and Governance programme and Civic Education.

1	Age (18 to45 ) 2 participants male and female from each country
2	Gender (50-50) include women in finance, media and politics
3	Location Rural vs Urban (strive to include participants based in rural areas and who are already involved in leadership and/or actively participating in community and youth issues(socio-economic or political issues)
4	Disability: Strive to include people living with disability
5	Region(South, East, Central, North & West and the Maghreb, and Islands)
6	Entrepreneurs(business owners)
7	Professionals (Teachers, Researchers, Academics etc.)
8	Politicians & Leaders

9	Youth working in the Civil Society Sector
10	Others (student & unemployed –who have demonstrated some community initiatives and leadership
11	African Youth in Diaspora
12	Young people in the Media

President Paul Kagame comments on the need for less talks & more Actions during Minds Youth Dialogue. “This kind of conversations has been there before, we have been talking.

In all these discussions people seem to know what they want. There is a feeling of hope, energy and by the time we get out, we rarely hit the ground running. This is a major issue that we need to address" He went further to say "Until something is done, He will always use the words 'seem to know'. How do we use the talent in the room? In Africa, there are many things we need to do; why are we not doing them? "

Opportunity comes in lifetime and as young people criticism should not scare us as you all know we are very resourceful, innovators, economic drivers, hope builders, policy makers and community changers but to do things in the right way and follow our passion to be able do valuable things in the continent all we need is identify the issues, use brain and not emotions to be able harmonize and create a mass movement in the continent therefore creating the future of ours and children amazing and history.

Nelson Mandela once said: young people are capable, when aroused, of bringing down towers of oppression and raising the banners of freedom.so say my vote is the key to unlock the doors of injustice” So I say my vote is the key to unlock the doors of injustice in Africa. I vote because I believe that voting is supposed to be credible way of making decisions in a peaceful way, in a manner that everybody can be heard. Abraham Lincoln said the ballots are the rightful and peaceful successors to bullets, Good citizens take actions for positive change Africa is presented globally as a laughing stock to the whole world and we need citizens to change that. All you need to know is that no one was born a good citizen; no nation is born democracy rather both are process that continue to evolve over a lifetime.

# Kagame: Africans should own up to their actions

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The inaugural AAYD was held in Ghana last year.

Kagame called on the African youth to move beyond rhetoric and put into actions what they already know is good for them. "The blame for what is wrong goes around but we also need responsibility to go around," he said. "It's not enough to know.

Knowing is not an end in itself. The aim is applying what you know."

Challenging Africans to rise up and shape their destiny, Kagame said: "We have accepted a sense of mediocrity and a tendency to look at the others and not at ourselves for solutions."

Kagame said African children need to be given the right upbringing, one that would turn them into responsible adults who will not seek to shift African misfortunes to others – especially former colonial masters – but rather hold themselves accountable for their situation.

"You need to be stubborn. As they stay on course of caus-



Youth listen to President Kagame during the Dialogue meeting yesterday, Village Urugwiro.

continue to fund the continent's development.

"We may wait for another 100 years if we keep thinking Western taxpayers are responsible for our development."

He added: "We should be get-

President Kagame also questioned the fact that resource-rich African countries often get caught up in senseless wars fuelled by the very resources that should be improving the livelihoods of the citizens.

to be victims caught up in a war between East and West for our resources?"

When asked about the role of the youth in fighting corruption, Kagame asked the youth to begin by their own action.

He said fighting corruption needed a collective change of attitude, understanding that corruption impoverishes more people than the few it enriches.

Participants also examined the challenge of violence associated with African elections in which the youth are often used as "foot soldiers" by corrupt politicians.

The youths shared ideas on how best social media can be used for positive campaigns leading to the election of the most competent candidates.

The Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS) was founded by Dr Nkosana Moyo who moderated yesterday's interactive discussion with President Kagame. As a continental organisation, MINDS aims to provide a forum for dialogue on African governance and economic development.

Its founders say the institution emerged out of the observation that development efforts in Africa have failed to meet expectations with respect to social, institutional and economic outcomes in comparison to other regions of the world such as Asia.

Leadership as a Job description in governance and accountability in Africa. There are so many tasks to be performed in Africa and this is a journey to the job description as youths lets be aware of our responsibility in the current state of Africa elections and outcome lets' mobilize and chose youth leaders among ourselves with qualifications to lead us from one point to another, with the ability to lead us and experience with youth leadership despite the fact that we have different categories of young people with different interest and experiences.

My fellow youths the vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking justice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men said Lyndon the 36 US president. This is very true. Men imprison other men in poverty, war, sickness and death and this comes with greed, corruption and the madness that comes with excessive power.

My advice to young people is to volunteer so that they can empower minority groups regardless of sex and sexual orientation everyone is important, engage the community there is power in

engagement and numbers, mobilize among themselves, understand each other, participate in NGOs and civil society to improve leadership so that they can reclaim their recognition and dignity in the society cultivating political leaders like crowds, participate in the society elections there is power in numbers.

Youths in positions of responsibility must always know the power in numbers and should be responsible so that youths should not be absorbed in the corrupt system instead credibility to governance processes, we have to push ourselves to positions of authority initiatives to action.



I Grace Mageka from Kenya my dream is to be an inspiration to many people by transforming the next generation of leaders to be the change for their countries especially Kenya and the continent at large where young people participate in democracy and good governance as a youth leader and a Kenyan African youth advocate: I want to see a youth inclusive society where young people are included from birth in all levels of decision making.



Lets work on our attitudes and mindset and build capacity for our people to avoid corruption alternatives to make progress it is not a must you use corruption to progress.Lets raise our value as youhs and improve our governance system and leadership to be able resolve our earlier problems and not to be allowed to be victims caught by the East and West.Lets organize a good course of everyone and take personal responsility,like what can we do and how faster are we doing it?Credibility creates spaces, do not loss opportunities and do not take things for granted make simple things happen.Lets have a clear designed policy that is contrinbuted by everyone so that results can be achieved.Together as youths it is our responsibility to conceptualze the Africa we want and lets deal with the problem coming from us. Lets not be socialized that we should not believe in ourselves.

Thank you very much president Paul Kagame for being an inspiration to us we have learnt a lot from your conversation with Profesor Nkosana Moyo.

LONG LIVE AFRICA WE APPRECIATE EVERYONE WHO MADE  
THE 2<sup>ND</sup> MANDELA INSTITUTE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES  
ANNUAL AFRICAN YOUTH DIALOGUE ON ELECTIONS AND  
GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA 2014 A SUCCESS.