

For Action: Provincial Commissioners

At this year's National Scout Council [NSC] motion 1 of 2009 (Youth Involvement) was passed, unanimously. The policy for a youth structure is now in place and we as the National Scout Council can no longer let the voice of the individuals within the movement go unheard. The objectives of the policy are clear; the South African Scout Association is gearing towards involving the youth (16 – 26 years) in decision making. That is not to say the youth will be in control of the Association, merely that they will have more constructive input than they have been afforded in the past.

The dates for the completion of what will be a three stage process for the implementation of the structure have been agreed upon – for completeness sake the dates that will fall under the responsibilities of all Provincial Commissioners [PC's] are as follows:

- A District Youth Forum [DYF] is to be established by no later than the end of July 2009
- A Provincial Youth Forum [PYF] be established by no later than November 2009
(Please bear in mind that Provinces with Regions will obviously need to have completed Regional Forums by this date already).

The District Youth Forums will serve many functions and have many implicit benefits for the operating of the Districts themselves. As the PC's you will use your District Commissioners [DC's] and their Assistants [ADC's] to coordinate the effective setting up and operating of the DYF's, that is until they become self sustaining – this will happen as soon as the youth realise what impact they can make themselves and take ownership of the initiative. The representatives elected to sit in on District Scouters Councils and Provincial Scouters Councils will be the channel for the flow of information to stream upward, to the bodies of charged scouters who make far reaching decisions. As a result of these representatives' mandated messages, there will automatically be enhanced accountability on the various levels of the Association; do not mistake this for anything but healthy.

The PYF will be set up by the PC and his deputies, in the same way the DC's and ADC's are initially to coordinate the DYF, the PC's and the APC's will be responsible for the PYF.

The National Youth Forum will not be the responsibility of the PC's.

The manner in which the respective forums should be taking place should mimic the seriousness of their equivalents, i.e. the PYF mimicking the PSC.

Although it is not obligatory (not passed at NSC), it is always in the interests of scouting to promote the relationships and bonds between patrol leaders within the different districts, especially where there are not too many provincial events. It is greatly encouraged, and hugely beneficial to the running of the districts to set up some sort of discussion between them, promote this interaction and they will become enthusiastic and determined to practise good scouting.

Let us afford the Youth the opportunity we all know they deserve and are now entitled to.

Yours in Scouting
Quintin Combrink
National Youth Representative

