**Youth Leadership Development Programme (YLDP)**

**10th Graduation Ceremony 2016**

**28 October 2016**

This year (2016) marks the 10th of the Youth Leadership Development Programme in Namibia. The Youth Leadership Development Programme is implemented since 2007, under the immense support of the tripartite agreement between the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the National Youth Council and the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service. Each year, about 20 youth leaders nominated by political parties and youth organisations are empowered and capacitated with knowledge and skills relevant to youth development and social-economic development.

The programme aims providing young and aspiring leaders with essential leadership skills, which include methodological training in combination with policy training. It also aims at developing young responsible political and social leaders from different political persuasions and different walks of life.

Knowledge and skills are impacted over weekends, where ten modules with 35 learning units are presented over a period nine months. At the centre of the programme stands the understanding that leaders are servants of their people, and hence YLDP participants are granted various opportunities to serve (on a voluntary basis) particularly marginalized, weak and challenged members of society. This exercise is parallel to the week modules.

The 2016 participants graduated from the programme recently (29 October 2016), and addressed by the Presidential Advisor on Youth Matters and Enterprises,

*Ms Daisry Mathias as the Keynote speaker*.

The 10th year of YLDP will further be marked and celebrated with a publication titled “***Youth Matters – 10 Years of Youth Leadership Development Programme in Namibia.”***, co-authored by various role player in the programme. The book conveys an appreciation of the programme’s impact on the youth leaders and also reflects on key matters pertaining to youth development. The book is launched on the 8 November 2016, by the patron of the programme Hon. Ben Amathila