



Media Release

16 July 2009

**YOUTH FORUM UNITES YOUNG LEADERS FROM SOUTH AFRICA,
BOTSWANA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND AUSTRALIA**

Over 100 youth from South Africa, Botswana, Australia and the United Kingdom have descended upon Ruimsig, Johannesburg, this week for the inaugural ENKE Africa Youth Leadership Forum taking place at Monash South Africa.

ENKE, which means 'ink' in Tswana, represents the unique ability of amazing young leaders to 'make their mark' on our future, and the Forum aims to unite and empower the next generation of global leadership by connecting young leaders from the developed and developing world and empowering and mobilising them over a week of activities and workshops.

The Forum, which started on Monday and concludes with a graduation ceremony this coming Friday 17 July, features presentations by Prince Cedza Dlamini, CEO of the Ubuntu Institute and Prince of Swaziland; Clem Sunter, ex Chairman and CEO of Anglo American South Africa, Gold and Uranium Division and ex Chairman of the Anglo American Chairman's Fund; Stuart Pennington, founder of South Africa Good News; Jon Foster-Pedley, Founding Director of the University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business; and Cameron Dugmore, Ex ANC Minister for Education in the Western Cape. Friday's graduation ceremony will be attended by representatives from the United Nations, The Alan Gray Orbis Foundation, The President's Award, ABI, ENGEN and the Old Mutual Foundation.

The ENKE delegates, aged between 15 and 19 and in grade 11, were chosen for their outstanding leadership abilities and passion to make a difference. They travelled to Johannesburg on buses from eight of South Africa's nine provinces and from Botswana, with the youth from the United Kingdom flying in to South Africa the week before the Forum. The delegates have been mentored and supervised by Alan Gray Orbis Foundation Fellows and Monash South Africa students in addition to Australian Oaktree volunteers.

Tom Walsh, the 24 year-old Australian who is the mastermind behind the ENKE Forum, said the youth delegates come from diverse backgrounds and cultures. "It's amazing to see them all connecting, singing the same pop

songs, sharing the same dreams and passions and talking about their ideas of improving their communities and the world," Tom said.

Nonhlanhla Khumalo, an ENKE delegate and one of five African Leadership Academy students attending the Forum, said the week had been an amazing opportunity to break down barriers and connect with other young people from different racial groups, cultures and countries. "I can see that this week will be one none of us ever forget. We are forming friendships that will last beyond this week, and collectively we are dreaming of being the generation of leaders across our communities and countries who will change things for the better," she said. "ENKE has encouraged us and made us realise that we have huge potential as young leaders, despite our backgrounds and challenges, and that we can rise up and make a difference if we work together," Nonhlanhla said.

The Forum is an initiative of The Oaktree Foundation, an Australian youth-run aid and development organisation working to empower developing communities through education. Oaktree has partnered with Monash South Africa and with GOLD Peer Education Development Agency to make the Forum possible.

Tom said the young people were full of energy and excitement. "They are always singing, dancing, laughing together – that youthful energy that is so contagious," he said.

"Our vision is that ENKE will become an important annual event on the global youth calendar for many years to come, growing from our foundational year in 2009 to be bigger and better each year," Tom said.

Media invite: ENKE Africa Youth Forum Graduation Ceremony

Date: Friday 17 July
Time: 4pm to 6pm
Venue: Monash University, Ruimsig
RSVP: rsvp@enkeforum.org or phone Olivia on 083 981 8583

Partners

GOLD (Generation of Leaders Discovered) Peer Education Development Agency is a non-profit organisation tackling the root causes of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and raising up Southern Africa's future leaders from underprivileged communities. www.goldpe.org.za

Monash South Africa is a campus of Monash University Australia. www.monash.ac.za

Ends...

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