

## **DDP-KZN YMCA Youth Day Event “June 16<sup>th</sup>”**

16 June 2008 (YMCA, Durban)

The DDP hosted a youth day event in conjunction with the KZN YMCA. The main purpose of the event was to conscientise young people of the importance of activism and participation in the struggle for change.

The event was well attended by young people from the local and surrounding areas, and was graced with an international contingent from the USA.

Overall, the event was informative and enliven with fun, including music, poetry, and dance performances.

**Busisiwe Xaba** presented a brief overview of the historical significance of June 16. He indicated that the main reasons for the uprising included political repression and suppression, dehumanization of Blacks, and exclusion of African student in decisions that affected them directly in terms of their curricula and learning conditions. **Ibrahim Steyn**, DDP researcher, presented some chilling thoughts on the challenges confronting young people in our current development trajectory. He identified crime, unemployment, poverty, alcohol and drug abuse and HIV/AIDS as the salient socio-economic stresses affecting young people. He emphasized the importance of political activism and mobilization as important drivers of progressive change as evidenced by the youth uprising of June 16, 1976.