

ADM COMMEMORATES YOUTH MONTH

By: Gail Pullen

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East London: June is traditionally known as Youth Month in South Africa. On 16 June 1976, the young people of Soweto near Johannesburg took to the streets, protesting the introduction of Afrikaans as the medium of instruction in schools. The South African police replied with teargas and live bullets and scores of young people died. The Soweto uprising, as it soon became known, spread like wildfire throughout South Africa. Who can forget the image that was indelibly printed on everyone's mind of the first victim's body, Hector Pieterse, being carried by Mbuyisa Makhubo. This photo was taken by Mr Sam Nzima, an activist and photographer who captured many scenes of the townships in that era. It is a day violently etched on the collective South African conscience. After 30 years, we still commemorate the day which is also an official holiday. It is the day when we honour the deaths of hundreds of Soweto school children, and a day that changed the course of South Africa's history.

The Amathole District Municipality (ADM) is joining the rest of South Africa to commemorate Youth Day, 16th June. We will be engaged in a number of activities that will culminate to the day in question, although there will be activities throughout the month of June at various venues in the district. After an intensive consultation process by the ADM's Special Programmes Unit with various stakeholders such as CGE, SAHRC, OPP, Youth Commission, COSAS, SASCO, Government Departments and youth political formations, the final programme of action will be as follows:

Date	Venue	Municipality	Description
10 June 2008 At 10h00	Cambridge Hall	Buffalo City	Launch of the Youth Month activities
13 June 2008	East London City Hall	Buffalo City	ADM Youth Day
20 June 2008	Komga Town Ward 4	Great Kei	Handover of Poultry Project
2 July 2008	Duncan Village Ward 7	Buffalo City	Handover of Duncan Village Youth Project
15 July 2008	East London City Hall	Buffalo City	Closure of the Youth Month and launch of the ADM Youth Council

Please join us in our activities as we commemorate Youth Month in our district.