

MEBALA YOUTH STUDIOS

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

YOUNG AFRICA BOTSWANA (YAB) REBRANDS TO MEBALA YOUTH STUDIOS

Topiwa Chilume CHAIR OF THE BOARD

After six years of affiliation with the Young Africa International Confederation, YAB is rebranding to Mebala Youth Studios- a new, local brand identity designed by our very own photographer and brand specialist Ms Neo Mokgosi.

Young Africa Botswana was registered in 2016, operating from the Lady Masire Youth Centre in Gaborone West, under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture.



Mebala Youth Studios' mission is to prepare young Batswana for the global working market through a combination of entrepreneurship training, creative skills and personal development.



Mebala Youth Studios' vision is to empower Botswana youth to be global citizens who are recognized for their unique talents, culture and skills.

As Board Chair, Mr Topiwa Chilume explains, "We are ready to stand on our own bringing the best of what we learnt with us. We have found a niche in training the youth in entrepreneurial skills and the development of the creative industry while integrating and advocating for a greener, fully inclusive Botswana into every aspect of our work. We grew in this direction naturally, responding to the demands of the market, the interests of the youth, the support of the donors and, most importantly, our own vision for Botswana's future. We are grateful for the opportunities created and the experience gained through the partnership with Young Africa International."

While our name might change, our focus and dedication to our work remains the same. Mebala Youth Studios remains a home for youth entrepreneurship, creative and personal skills development, and community building.

BRIEF HISTORY TIMELINE

2016

Young Africa Botswana is registered.

2017

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sports and Culture.

2018

Assigned Lady Masire Youth Centre to begin programs.

2019

Launch of Futuremakers Botswana

Making TVET Cool Program
America On The Move Program

2020

Accredited as Education & Training Provider by the Botswana Qualifications Authority

COVID Response: Protecting and Educating High Risk Communities
Murals of Hope Project

2021

Joined Youth Business International as a member

The Next Step Pitching Competition

2022

Rebrand as Mebala Youth Studios

PROGRAMS

Entrepreneurship

Business One Stop Shop

Aspiring Entrepreneurs

Start Up Growth

Mentorship

Masterclasses

Business Incubation Hub

Creative Skills Development

Podcast Program

Murals of Hope

MEBALA Art Shop

Social Development

Coalition Against GBV

Permaculture Demo Garden

Counselling Centre

Basketball Courts

Skate Ramps



BUSINESS INCUBATION PROGRAM

Our years of experience in running a Business Incubator Program has informed us of the challenges youth face in a small market. Many young people have unrealistic ideas about entrepreneurship and are not prepared for the challenges.

To ensure that our incubator makes a difference, we have partnered with local corporate businesses who will adopt and mentor selected young entrepreneurs for a year.

In this way, our mentors will assist our young business owners to grow their business and client base, becoming stable enough to independently enter the market.

If you are interested in knowing more about the programme and applying as a young entrepreneur or a corporate mentor, please contact us at dumelng@mebalayouthstudios.org with the subject line INCUBATOR.

CONTACT US TO
GET INVOLVED

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PODCAST PROGRAM

Creative Skills Development

This program developed organically as a way to make use of the podcast equipment at Mebala. It illustrates how Mebala Youth Studios can combine our values of youth empowerment, skills development and creative community.

The aim of the program is to help participants develop and hone media and content creation skills including:

- Technical podcast audio recording and editing
- Writing and editing
- Confident and clear communication
- Content planning
- Content creation
- Media and communication ethics

CONTACT US

Keep connected with us for detailed information and partnership

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WEBSITE

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ADDRESS

Lady Masire Youth Centre
Plot 13304, Phase 1,
Gaborone West

GET INVOLVED

Mebala Is Seeking Volunteers to Assist Blind and Partially Sighted Students

Having successfully initiated a relationship with the Botswana Association for the Blind and Partially Sighted, the Futremakers program has enrolled five of their members into the Aspiring Entrepreneurs Program.

We are inviting applications from volunteers to assist our students in their studies for two afternoons a week. Contact us at dumelang@mebalayouthstudios.org with the subject line BABPS VOLUNTEER if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.

CREATING SAFE SPACE SESSIONS FOR YOUTH IN GABORONE

Mebala Youth Studios is proud to be a part of the Coalition Against GBV, a collection of organizations committed to deal directly with relational violence and abuse of power at all levels of society.

Youth are affected by gender based violence like everyone else, and we believe that while the issue is widespread, the solutions must be uniquely tailored to the the diverse needs of our communities. Youth, like women, is not a homogenous group- we are all different and we want to celebrate this fact in designing our interventions.

Botswana needs 365 Days of Activism against gender based violence and to start, we invite you to join us for our Safe Space Sessions where youth can come together to discuss relationship green flags, consent and how to deal with rejection, safe sexual exploration and healthy emotional expression.

We welcome collaborations. If you are interested contact dumelang@mebalayouthstudios.org with the subject line Safe Space Sessions.