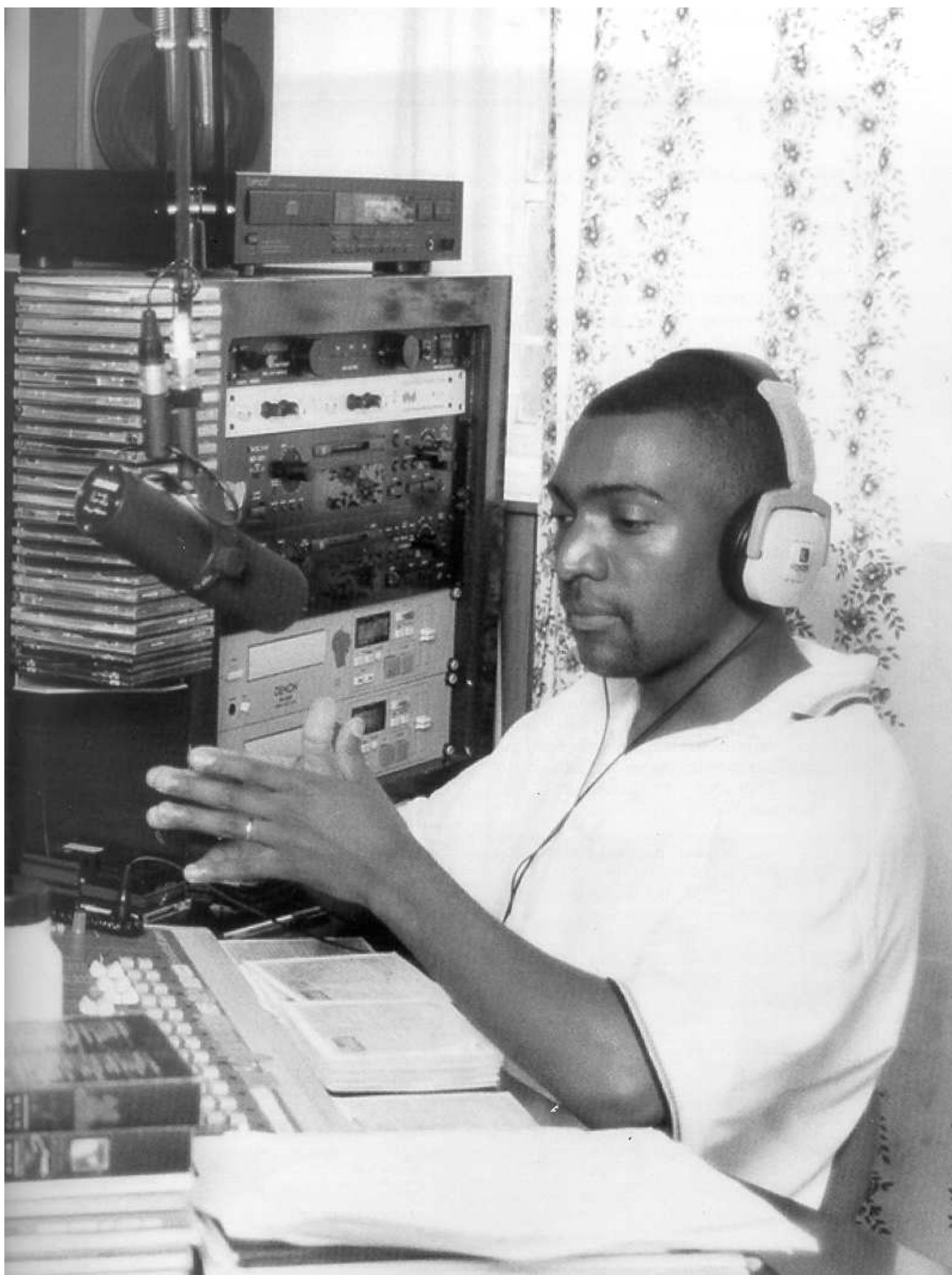




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**DEVELOPING  
THE  
YOUTH**



# 11. Developing The Youth

## OUR AIM

*It is estimated that 59% of the Malawian population are youth. If well nurtured, the youth are the future of this country and need to be encouraged to take part in the social and economic development of the nation. The UDF government realizes that there is much untapped talent in the youth which needs utilization. The majority of the youth that drop out or are squeezed out of the education system are unskilled, unemployed, and without capital to start small business. Instead they resort to violence and criminal activities as a means of survival. The UDF government will endeavor to establish youth vocational training centers where skill-based training will be provided. A business loan scheme for the youth will be introduced to promote small scale enterprising among the youth.*

## WHAT WE PLEDGED

The UDF government pledged to harness the potential of the youth and prepare them for all participation in the national service and development. The UDF government promised to equip youth with the knowledge and skills to reduce unemployment and increase youth programs.

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- The UDF government has developed a National Youth Policy to provide a framework for the facilitation of meaningful youth development programmes and services.
- UDF established the National Youth Council, as an umbrella body for all non-governmental organizations dealing with youth issues.
- The UDF government has appointment youth into leadership positions such as the Board of the National Youth Council, the Law Commission and other Presidential assignments.
- The government facilitated the formation of over 50 youth led non-governmental organizations and over 70 youth clubs. This includes the revamped Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.
- UDF facilitated the construction of 5 district based youth

development centres in Blantyre, Nkhosakota, Mulanje, Ekwendeni and Dedza.

- The government designated August 12 as a National Youth Day.
- A diploma course in Youth Development Studies has been established at Bunda College in conjunction with Commonwealth Youth.
- The UDF government has facilitated the construction of a Guidance and Counseling Centre for Africa in Lilongwe.

## THE CHALLENGES

It is estimated that 59 percent of Malawi's population are youth. Due to limited access to basic education and vocational training, the majority of our youth find themselves unskilled, unemployed, and under prepared for venturing into self-employment. As a result the number of street children, vendors, and juvenile delinquents continue to increase.

## OUR COMMITMENT

The UDF government believes that the youth have the potential to contribute positively to the development of Malawi. Given all the resources and the knowledge, the youth can take up major challenges and act positively for the benefit of their communities. The youth are not only leaders of tomorrow but also leaders in the nation. The

for development and not a liability.

The UDF government will harness the potential of the youth constructively and equip them with knowledge and skills necessary for their full participation in the socio, cultural, economic and political development of the country. The areas of focus will be skills training for self-employment, preventive health services and provision of recreational facilities.

### OUR PLEDGES

The next UDF Government will:

- Create a separate government Youth Ministry for the administration of youth empowerment.
- Construct at least three multipurpose youth development centres in the three regions of the country.
- Continue to mainstream the youth in decision-making and implementation of national programmes.
- Establish more Youth Vocational Training Centres to assist youth in acquiring skills for gainful direct and self-employment.
- Promote small-scale enterprises for the youth and continue to provide business skills training by reintroducing the Youth Business Loan Credit Scheme.
- Encourage and promote a healthy life style and greater awareness among the youth of the dangers of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) through the existing youth organizations and clubs.
- Provide incentives to the youth involved in voluntary national community service.
- Promote greater youth participation in Malawi cultural activities.
- Provide more sports and recreational facilities for the youth by encouraging private sector investment.
- Establish and enhance career guidance and counseling services to meet the aspirations of the youth.

