

**16<sup>th</sup> ACTS NATIONAL  
LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING CONFERENCE 2009  
'STATE OF ORGANISATION ADDRESS'**

*By: ACTS National General Secretary*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the Sixteenth ACTS National Annual Leadership and Training Conference held from 30 November to 4 December 2009. I am presenting this State of the Organisation Address as ACTS National General Secretary to you on behalf of the ACTS National President, Mr Moses Mkhabela, because he is still writing his exams and will only arrive tomorrow afternoon. Each one of you is welcome in a very special way and let us hope that this time will be your time of God's Grace, a time of friendship and a time of sharing.

The ACTS Annual National Leadership and Training Conference has the aim to train the leadership of all the ACTS branches. It is hoped that we will be empowered, and together get to know more about the history of ACTS, the National Policies which are contained in the National Documents. Whilst ACTS is a student organisation, each branch of ACTS is called to be A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS IN CHRIST. Let us hope that this Conference will give us the opportunity to encounter Christ anew.

This Address gives me the opportunity to introduce the ACTS NEC 2009/2010:

The newly elected ACTS NEC met for the first time on 4 October 2009, giving us the opportunity to use the Pastoral Cycle to discern the Signs of the Times in our context as Catholic Students. Out of this reflection we developed the following Vision and Mission Statement for the forthcoming year:

**Vision and Mission Statement for the year 2009 / 2010**

Having discerned the signs of the times within the context of the South African Youth, ACTS sees the way forward to addressing the lack of commitment, lack of knowledge about our faith and the loss of 'our' Catholic identity as:

- Evangelisation by taking ownership of our Church
- Developing a new consciousness with regard to student poverty, which will lead to the initiation of an alternative economic policy based on the Gospel

This Vision and Mission Statement is, on the one hand, a continuation of the previous year, for example, youth evangelisation, but on the other hand highlights new aspects such as the question of an alternative economic policy based on the Gospel and that of the question of commitment. Commitment and the lack of commitment are seen with regard to faith, but not when it comes to Face-book, MXIT and electronic networks.

This Leadership and Training Conference gives us the opportunity to unpack especially the issue of youth evangelisation and hopefully we will be able to develop a youth evangelisation policy similar to the HIV/AIDS policy we have in place.

The NEC would also like to announce that ACTS finally has an active, informative website, [www.actsnational.org.za](http://www.actsnational.org.za). Though the site is still under development a lot of information can be accessed from the site, this includes our National Documents, Conference Reports, Financial details and all correspondence on various important issues.

Having realized that our generation is a CYBER generation, the site is linked to the SACBC website. We can also announce that an ACTS blog is being developed and will be attached to the ACTS website. This will allow members to communicate with each other and hold discussions on the site. We hope that, in the near future, we will be able to advertise our site on Face-book and other social networks in order to make our site well known. Please make a habit of visiting the site and making suggestions to the Webmaster and our ACTS Media and Publicity Officer so that we may develop our site. The various ACTS Branches' websites will also be linked to the ACTS website.

During this conference we will continue our efforts to strive for positive lifestyles; starting tomorrow by re-visiting the ABCD Lifestyle Campaign. This will include an approach towards AIDS prevention and a look at the spirituality / methodology of ACTS. On Wednesday, we shall be improving our leadership skills through a series of team-building activities. The week will conclude on Thursday with a visit to the Mother Theresa Hospice in Yeoville, followed by a forum on youth evangelisation developing policy. On the day of parting – Friday – we would like to wish everyone a safe trip home, and a marvellous festive season. Until we meet again on our respective campuses, may Almighty God bless you.

Shaka James Dzebu

ACTS National General Secretary on behalf of the ACTS National President