

Striking the right note with Blair

Young people from across the world, including several African countries, will have the opportunity to quiz British Prime Minister Tony Blair on MTV this weekend. Music TV channel MTV base, with fellow MTV channels around the world, has created a dedicated weekend of programming to address the massive worldwide interest in this weekend's LIVE 8 concerts and upcoming G8 Summit in Edinburgh.

Young Africans from nine African nations including South Africa, Uganda, Somalia, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Tanzania and Guinea are represented in 'All Eyes on Tony Blair', a 60-minute question and answer session.

Due to be filmed just days before the G8 Summit opens in Gleneagles, Scotland, the programme gives a unique opportunity to young people to debate some of the profound issues under debate at the G8 Summit, including climate change, debt relief and poverty.

Artists including Destiny's Child and Kanye West will also feature in the forum, posing questions to Blair via videotape. Hosted by Trevor Nelson, MBE, one of the UK's most respected youth presenters, 'All Eyes On Tony Blair' will be recorded on 30th June and will be broadcast 'as live' on MTV channels around the world from today, 1 July 2005.

As seen in Africa on DStv channel 88, MTV base is putting scheduled programming on hold to broadcast a menu of G8 and Live 8 related programming including regular news bulletins, a four-hour highlights programme of all the Live 8 concerts, and a special forum featuring young people from around the world with G8 Chair and UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair, alongside Bob Geldof, the leading force behind Saturday's Live 8 concerts.

Key schedule changes on MTV base include:

- Hourly Live 8 news bulletins commence Thursday 30 June, 18.00 CAT
- All Eyes On Tony Blair - Saturday 2nd July, 18.00-19.00 CAT
- Live 8 highlights programme: Sunday 3rd July, 15.00-19.00 CAT, repeated Monday 4th July, 18.00-22.00 CAT.