

Female-led NYDA Board set to address youth development issues

NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY **OUR YOUTH. OUR FUTURE.**

The appointment

In December 2021, a seven-member Board led by Ms. Asanda Luwaca was appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa. The Board comprises of individuals who bring within them a wealth of experience in the youth development sector. The appointment came with a greater responsibility to champion youth development matters and ensure that these young people have access to more opportunities.

The Board's vision

The Board's vision is to continue to solidify the NYDA as a credible, capable, and activist development agency that is responsive to the plight of the South African youth. The mission is to mainstream youth issues into society through stakeholder coordination and facilitate and champion youth development with all sectors of society. The NYDA as one of the partners of the Presidential Youth Empowerment Intervention has been striving to ensure that its products and services are accessible to all youth irrespective of race, class and gender. It is crucial to build a South Africa where more young people have access to opportunities and are active participants in the economy.

The road ahead

Since assuming their roles, the NYDA Board members have been engaged on numerous activities that seek to enhance the agency's performance and deliver the best customer experience. Furthermore, the Board is pleased with the progress that has been made in governance at the NYDA, particularly the achievement of seven consecutive clean audit outcomes, the progress made in the Integrated Youth Development Strategy, the growth in the budget of the NYDA, the increase in accessibility, collaborative partnerships and the implementation of a fully online system for young people to access the various products and services of the Agency.

Young people face a myriad of challenges, and the NYDA Board recognizes the urgent need for more interventions that will have a positive impact on the lives of



Asanda Luwaca **Executive Chairperson**



Karabo Mohale Executive Deputy Chairperson

participation was reaffirmed in the recent unemployment figures published by Statistics South Africa, which indicated that approximately 32.8%, or 3.4 million of the 10 million young people aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education of training (NEET). The figures further showed that youth aged 15-24 years and 25-35 years recorded the highest unemployment rates of 66.5% and 43.5% respectively.

There is an urgent need to reduce the rate of youth unemployment. At the center of the NYDA Board plans is to increase support of youth businesses and implement a revitalized National Youth Service Programme. The Board remains committed to ensuring the Agency continues to help small businesses expand into new markets, provide business management training for young people, connect emerging entrepreneurs with mentors and networks, expand access to capital with other development finance partners and continue to offer grants and vouchers to starts-up businesses.

NYDA Board Members





Thulisa Ndlela

Lebogang Mulaisi



Alexandria Procter

Waseem Carrim (CEO)

Asavela Mjajubana

government only. More efforts are needed to avoid a major catastrophe to the socio-economic condition of our country. For the NYDA Board, the road ahead requires more investment in the youth who are not just the future of this country, but the present.

With the amendment of the NYDA Bill, the Board and the Agency will have the opportunity to have more voices of the youth heard on matters that affect them. The NYDA believes in an inclusive approach to ensure that youth actively participate in discussions whilst seeking solutions to some of the country's foremost challenges such as the high rate of unemployment, gender-based violence and femicide as well as food security.

The National Youth Policy also seeks to address challenges faced by the youth. Its vision is to integrate holistic and sustainable youth development in which young people not only realise their full potential in the social, economic and political spheres of life, but also their responsibilities in making a meaningful contribution towards building a better life for all.

The NYDA through its products and services have benefitted young people across the country. Over the coming Financial Year, the Agency, through its Board, commits to investing in sustainable livelihoods, continue to support more young entrepreneurs and build on the foundations guided by the Agency's values of accountability, integrity, respect and professionalism.

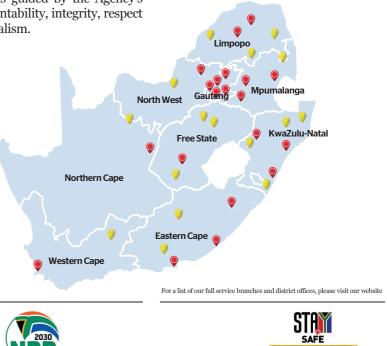
Board's 100 Days in Office

As part of the Board's 100 days in office, they have sought intentional programmes that engages youth in communities, schools and organisations, in a manner that is productive and constructive; foster nation building and social cohesion as well promoting positive outcomes for young people by the Agency.

The Board has also put community involvement and collaboration at the centre to ensure positive youth development and to build connections to build a better tomorrow. Furthermore, the Board recognizes the valuable contributions made by the communities in identifying and responding to challenges faced by the youth.

Suffice it to say, the Board hit the ground running in their first 100 days in office. Among the key activations that the Board got involved in was the Pre-SONA Youth Dialogue Session; Back to School Campaigns and Provincial Roadshows hosted in conjunction with the Ministry of Small Business Development.

Indeed the first 100 days of the Board shows their aim to turn youth voices into action, setting up plans to drive youth-led solutions, build networks and create enabling environments where innovation is cultivated.



young people. Innovation, skills development, and access to education are some of the key necessities to provide solutions on how the country can tackle the many challenges faced by the youth head on.

The Board is cognisant of the fact that South Africa is faced with the complex challenge of poor economic participation of young people, which inhibits the country's economic development and imposes a larger burden on the state to provide social assistance. This low economic

Young people have a role to play in rebuilding the economy of our country. Key to this is ensuring that the Agency creates an enabling environment, particularly for young people, to be able to access markets. Hence the NYDA Board has put youth empowerment at the centre of its strategic plans and ensuring youth are able to build on social compacts with the aim of growing the economy, creating jobs and alleviating hunger. The plight of the youth can no longer be left to the



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7th Clean Audit **Financial Year** 2020/2021

Ms. Asanda Luwaca: Executive Chairperson

NYDA's achievements:

Jobs created and sustained through Grant, Relief Fund, **Voucher and Market Linkages** Programmes

Youth-owned enterprises

supported with financial

interventions including **Grant and Relief Fund**

8 5 2 6

37892

Youth supported with 246 561

non-financial business development interventions

Jobs facilitated through placements in job 4962 opportunities

nyda

491337

38

44

96%

Young people trained to enter the job market through Job Preparedness and capacitated through Life Skills Trainings

National Youth Service projects were registered

Full service branches and district offices across the 9 provinces

Targets achieved





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