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**NYDA WELCOMES ASSENTING OF NYDA AMENDMENT BILL BY THE PRESIDENT, HE
CYRIL RAMAPHOSA**

Given the current context within the youth development sector and need for a centralised youth development mechanism that spans its functions across the entire country, the NYDA welcomes greatly the amendment to the NYDA bill of Act 54 of 2008.

Having been adopted by the Portfolio Committee for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, on the 29th of November 2023 and sent for consideration by the National Assembly on the 5th of December 2023 the NYDA is pleased that the amendment of the bill has reached its conclusion. "We would like to thank all our social and state stakeholders who participated in the bill amendment process in particular young people who contributed during the public consultation processes. Young people have made valuable inputs to the bill which we currently see featuring and for that we thank them immensely," said Executive Chair of the NYDA, Ms Asanda Luwaca.

The amendment bill has three broad objectives which include:

- Strengthening the governance environment.
- Ensuring a more focused mandate of the NYDA.
- Creating greater accountability in the youth development sector.

The law assented to by the President amends the National Youth Development Agency Act of 2008 to refocus the functions of the agency; to the following:

- Provide for organs of state to assist the NYDA; to provide for additional Board members and to determine that board members may not be reappointed for more than two consecutive terms.
- The new provisions narrow the objectives of the agency which were previously deemed as too broad and not feasible for implementation.
- The mandate of the NYDA is primarily within the youth sector and the law limits the agency's mandate to the objectives that can be funded.
- The NYDA is now empowered to establish competencies and capabilities in its operations in the following functional areas: national youth service; economic transformation, job creation and entrepreneurial support and management of interventions needed to assist the youth to find employment.



- The agency is classified as a national public entity as listed in Part A of Schedule 3 of the Public Finance Management Act, which will report to the Minister for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.
- The agency is required to submit to the Minister at least one report every two years on the status of youth in the country.
- The new law sets out the composition, appointment and conditions of service of the NYDA board and directs, among other provisions, that board members must be South African citizens between the ages of 18 and 35.
- It also determines that board proceedings will be null and void in an event where a board member participates in the proceedings of the board without disclosing any interest which may induce bias.

The agency welcomes the refocused mandate and will ensure the operationalisation of the bill through continued collaboration with all state and non-state actors in the youth development sector.

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