

TO ALL MEDIA/ NEWS EDITORS

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NYDA, Led by the Executive Chairperson, Marks Freedom Day with a Call to Deepen Youth Empowerment.

As South Africa commemorates 31 years of freedom and democracy, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), led by Executive Chairperson Ms Asanda Luwaca, calls on all citizens to reflect not only on the progress made, but also on the urgent task of building a more inclusive and just society for young people.

Recognising the historic importance of Freedom Day, the NYDA stresses that real freedom must be experienced in the everyday lives of the youth. "Freedom must be visible in the lives of the youth. It must translate into access to education, employment, entrepreneurship opportunities, and the ability of young people to lead and shape their own futures," says Ms Luwaca.

Against the backdrop of persistent unemployment, inequality, and exclusion among the youth, the NYDA reaffirms its role as a strategic driver in South Africa's democratic project. "The NYDA continues to carry the hopes of millions. It is not just a government entity; it is a vehicle for transformation and a bridge to opportunities," Luwaca adds.

Highlighting the efforts of the agency's personnel, the Executive Chairperson commends their contribution towards building a more empowered generation. "The team is made up of individuals whose work gives real meaning to the freedom we commemorate today. Each young person reached is a step closer to fulfilling the promise of 1994," she notes.

Looking ahead, Ms Luwaca urges leaders across the public and private sectors to recommit to the principles of justice, equity, and empowerment. "Freedom is deepened every time a young person is empowered. This work must continue with urgency, compassion, and purpose," she concludes.

The NYDA remains steadfast in its commitment to accelerating youth development and working with partners across society to build a South Africa where every young person has a fair chance to thrive

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