

TO ALL MEDIA/ NEWS EDITORS
JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG
MONDAY, 30 MARCH 2026

NYDA BOARD REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND CLEAN GOVERNANCE

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) Board convened an Ordinary Board Meeting on 29 March 2026 and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to advancing youth development as a pillar of South Africa's social and economic agenda.

The Board emphasised that the challenges facing young people, particularly high levels of unemployment, inequality, and limited access to opportunities, demand a bold, coordinated, and sustained response. To that end, the Board resolved to intensify efforts that place youth development at the heart of national priorities. This includes ensuring that young people are meaningfully integrated into economic participation, skills development initiatives, and broader nation-building programmes. The Board also raised concerns about geopolitics and its effect on young people, particularly with looming petrol increases, and how this affects young people, especially entrepreneurs.

Recognising that government alone cannot address the scale of the youth development challenge, the Board issued a strong call to action for the public service, private sector, and civil society to work together in a collaborative and accountable manner. The Board highlighted the importance of results-driven partnerships focused on creating sustainable pathways for young people to access education, training, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities.

In strengthening its governance mandate, the Board adopted several key resolutions to enhance accountability, financial management, and institutional performance. The Board will continue to exercise strict oversight over the implementation of the Audit Action Plan, particularly in addressing findings from the 2024/25 audit cycle. The Agency has responded urgently to those audit findings and confirms that previous non-compliance relating to financial procedures in the preparation of annual financial statements has been resolved. The Board further noted that it had received and considered the interim financial statements at the meeting and expressed satisfaction with the report's quality, credibility, and reliability. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to achieving a clean audit outcome in the current financial year.

The Board also deliberated on deficit management and resolved to strengthen financial controls and sustainability measures to ensure the Agency's long-term stability. These efforts form part of a broader commitment to responsible financial stewardship and prudent resource management.

In line with its developmental and nation-building mandate, the Board further resolved to play a leading role in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1976 Youth Uprising. This milestone presents an opportunity to honour the contribution of young people in the struggle for freedom while reflecting on the current socio-economic realities facing youth and renewing collective efforts towards their empowerment.

The Board also reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that the Agency remains accessible, inclusive, and representative of South Africa's diverse youth population. The Board further resolved to explicitly address the issue of inclusivity in the Agency's products and services, including a clear set aside for that purpose. Efforts will be intensified to expand outreach, improve service delivery, and ensure that no young person is left behind in accessing opportunities provided by the NYDA.

In response to recent allegations circulating in the public domain, the Board firmly refuted any claims of misconduct and reiterated its zero tolerance for unethical behaviour. The Board emphasised that all matters raised are subject to due process and internal verification.

Furthermore, the Board highlighted the importance of a robust, well-protected whistleblower framework within the Agency. Young people, stakeholders, and members of the public are encouraged to report any suspicions of fraud, corruption, or irregularity using the appropriate channels. The Agency provides a toll-free anti-corruption line at 0800 733 477 and an email address, nyda@tip-offs.com, for this purpose. The Agency remains committed to ensuring that all disclosures are treated with strict confidentiality, that whistleblowers are protected from any form of victimisation, and that all reports are investigated with integrity and transparency.

The Board Chairperson, Dr Sunshine Myende, delivered a direct statement on behalf of the Board. "As the NYDA Board, we are resolute in our commitment to place young people at the centre of South Africa's development agenda. The scale of the challenges facing our youth requires a united effort across government, the private sector and civil society. We are equally committed to upholding the highest standards of governance, transparency and ethical leadership within the Agency. We firmly reject any allegations of misconduct and reaffirm our zero tolerance for unethical behaviour. At the same time, we will continue to protect whistleblowers and ensure that all matters are handled with integrity and due process. Our focus remains on building a capable, credible institution that delivers meaningful and lasting impact for the youth of our country."

These measures form part of the Agency's broader objective of maintaining a clean, transparent, and accountable administration fully focused on serving the interests of South Africa's youth. The NYDA remains resolute in its mission to empower young people and will continue to implement impactful programmes, strengthen strategic partnerships, and drive initiatives that contribute to sustainable and inclusive youth development across the country.

-END-

Issued by the NYDA Communications:

For Media Enquiries:

MediaEnquiries@NYDA.gov.za

Engage with us on:

X (Twitter): @NYDARSA

Instagram: nyda_insta

Facebook: National Youth Development Agency

Website: www.nyda.gov.za