

TO ALL MEDIA/ NEWS EDITORS
JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG
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THE NYDA WARNS AGAINST FRAUDULENT PLATFORMS MISLEADING YOUTH SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) has noted with grave concern the increasing number of false advertisements that claim to be affiliated with the initiatives and programmes of the NYDA. The NYDA strongly condemns these deceptive practices and urges the public to exercise vigilance to avoid falling victim to such malicious practices.

As a government agency dedicated to addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by South Africa's youth, the NYDA reaffirms that all its programmes are free of charge. Young people are not required to make any payments to apply for or participate in any NYDA initiatives.

Fraudulent adverts, therefore, are misleading and exploit young people seeking genuine opportunities. The NYDA urges the public to remain vigilant and avoid sharing personal information or making any payments in response to such claims.

These fraudulent adverts often mirror the structure of official programmes, using false branding or seemingly credible information to mislead those who seek opportunities. In some cases, individuals are asked to submit personal information, which may include ID numbers, banking details, or home addresses. This may also include payment requests for "registration" or "application" fees. These actions pose a significant risk to opportunity seekers and the integrity of institutions that provide legitimate opportunities to young people.

The NYDA is actively collaborating with law enforcement and relevant authorities to identify, investigate, and take decisive action against perpetrators of these scams. The agency remains steadfast in its mission to protect the interests of South Africa's youth and uphold the integrity of its programmes.

Communities, young people, and stakeholders are encouraged to remain alert and to share this media alert widely. Protecting access to real opportunities begins with accurate information and public awareness.

To protect yourself and others from scams, the NYDA urges the public to verify information only through official platforms such as the NYDA website

(www.nyda.gov.za), ERP system (<https://erp.nyda.gov.za>), and verified social media pages.

The NYDA calls on all South Africans to report any suspicious activity linked to these scams. Fraud and corruption related to NYDA can be reported through the toll-free anti-corruption line at 0800 733 477 or via email at nyda@tip-offs.com.

The NYDA remains committed to fostering youth development and will continue to work tirelessly to eliminate barriers that hinder progress. Together, we can protect the future of South Africa's youth by exposing and eradicating these fraudulent practices.

-ENDS-

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