

TO ALL MEDIA/ NEWS EDITORS

JOHANNESBURG, GAUTENG

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## **NYDA CONGRATULATES THE NEWLY ELECTED SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH COUNCIL (SAYC) LEADERSHIP**

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) congratulates the newly elected leadership of the South African Youth Council (SAYC), led by President Thabo Sukanazo Tsheme, on their election to lead one of South Africa's youth formations.

The SAYC continues to play a vital role in shaping the national youth development agenda, serving as a united voice for young people and a platform for engagement between youth structures, civil society, and the state. Its renewed leadership marks an important moment for coordinated action in addressing the challenges confronting young people today.

Commenting on the election of the SAYC leadership, NYDA Executive Chairperson, Dr Sunshine Myende, stated that “the NYDA extends heartfelt congratulations to President Thabo Sukanazo Tsheme and his leadership collective. Their election comes at a time when the unity, energy, and innovation of young people are essential to instil hope for a better future. We look forward to deepening collaboration with the SAYC to drive youth empowerment and meaningful participation in South Africa's transformation.

“At the NYDA, we believe that together, we must intensify the fight against youth unemployment, poverty, and inequality. These are challenges that continue to define the lived realities of millions of young South Africans. For greater impact, we must work together, realising that the NYDA and SAYC share a common responsibility to ensure that every young person has access to opportunities, resources, and platforms to shape their own destiny,” said Myende.

The NYDA acknowledges the SAYC's long-standing contribution to mobilising youth voices, advocating for policy reform, and promoting social justice. The Agency remains committed to supporting SAYC initiatives that advance leadership development, civic education, and youth inclusion across all spheres of society.

As the new leadership takes office, the NYDA looks forward to a partnership rooted in action, accountability and impact, ensuring that together we build a generation that is skilled, empowered, and united in purpose.

**END**

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