

TO ALL MEDIA/ NEWS EDITORS
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NYDA HELD A SUCCESSFUL INCUBATOR PROGRAMME FOR GRASSROOTS YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) successfully hosted a two-day NYS Incubator Learning Forum from 22 to 23 October 2025, designed to support grassroots, community-led youth organisations. The session served as a strategic gathering to mobilise partnerships for the National Youth Service (NYS) Incubator Programme, with the aim of deepening the involvement of youth-led non-profit organisations in national service initiatives.

The programme directly addressed the challenges many non-profit organisations (NPOs) face in maintaining legal compliance and operational sustainability. Recognising that a significant number of NPOs cease operations within their first five years, the NYS–NPO Capacity Building Programme equipped participants with essential knowledge and skills in good governance, legal compliance, and effective management. This initiative aligned with the Department of Social Development's mandate to ensure a robust and active NPO sector.

Reflecting on the event, the NYDA Executive Chairperson, Dr Sunshine Myende, stated, “This learning forum represented the meeting of minds. It was a space where youth-led NPOs engaged meaningfully in shaping the future of youth development.”

This sentiment underscored the collaborative spirit of the initiative, which brought together government, civil society, and young leaders to advance sustainable youth empowerment.

The programme was designed to deliver significant outcomes, including:

- **Increased Community Engagement:** Empowering youth-led NPOs to develop impactful solutions for local developmental needs.
- **Enhanced Collaboration:** Establishing a dynamic platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and the exchange of best practices.
- **Improved Responsiveness:** Equipping participants to address socio-economic challenges through continuous learning.
- **Strengthened Organisational Capacity:** Building operational capabilities for efficient program delivery and resource management.



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- **Promotion of Good Governance:** Encouraging sound governance practices and compliance with legal standards.
- **Development of a Service Network:** Creating an interconnected network of NPOs capable of implementing the National Youth Service Programme.

The success of the initiative was anchored in the commitment of its strategic partners. The NYDA extended its gratitude to United Nations (UN) Volunteers; the Department of Social Development; the National Development Agency; the National School of Government (NSG); the South African Revenue Service (SARS); the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC); Southern African Association of Youth Clubs (SAAYC); Digify Africa Foundation; Sport For Social Change Network (SSCN); the National Lotteries Commission; DEZ Advisory Services; Momentum Group; and the NYS Lead Implementers.

These partners contributed diverse expertise, resources, and networks that were instrumental in strengthening the capacity of youth-led organisations. The NYDA reaffirmed that a vibrant civil society is a cornerstone of national development, and the event marked a pivotal step in consolidating efforts for meaningful youth empowerment across South Africa.

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