

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **The South African Youth Awards 2024: A Celebration of Young Achievers Making a Global Impact**

**[Johannesburg, 10 October 2024]** – The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) is proud to announce the launch of the South African Youth Awards (SAYA) 2024. As the official host of this prestigious event, the NYDA continues its mission to address the challenges faced by the nation's youth by recognising and celebrating the extraordinary achievements of young trailblazers.

The South African Youth Awards seeks to honour young South Africans who are making a positive impact not only in their communities but also across the African continent and the world. Through these awards, we aim to acknowledge individuals and organisations that have made outstanding contributions to youth development, encouraging further collaboration from the public sector, private sector, and civil society to advance the youth agenda.

#### **About the South African Youth Awards**

The NYDA, an entity of the Presidency, conceptualised and successfully hosted the South African Youth Awards in 2012, 2017, and 2018. These events have proven to be exceptional platforms for recognising the achievements of young people who have demonstrated resilience, determination, and the spirit to overcome challenges.

#### **Objectives of the South African Youth Awards 2024**

- **Showcase Exceptional Contributions:** To provide a platform that highlights the extraordinary work and contributions of young people in their communities and beyond.
- **Inspire Through Real Lived Experiences:** To tell inspiring stories of young individuals who have faced adversity with resilience and determination, achieving remarkable outcomes despite the odds.
- **Recognise and Applaud Journeys:** To acknowledge the successes and failures of young people in their journey to self-formation and provide them with a stage to share their stories and showcase their achievements.
- **Support Youth Excellence:** To celebrate youth excellence and express gratitude for their contributions, promoting the values of cooperation, participation, and social responsibility.
- **Promote Youth Development:** To encourage the public sector, private sector, and civil society to make tangible contributions to advancing youth development in South Africa.
- **Network Youth With Industry Leaders:** To ensure that young people are linked with their next form of support in their enterprise, personal or academic development.

**MEDIA ALERT**

### **Aims of the South African Youth Awards 2024**

- **Celebrate and Showcase Talent:** We aim to ensure that the South African Youth Awards celebrate and showcase exceptional young people to the entire country.
- **Encourage Participation:** We aim to inspire even more young people to participate in #SAYA2024, demonstrating that extraordinary achievements are possible even in the most challenging circumstances.
- **Motivate and Inspire:** Through the awards, we aim to motivate other young people by showing that resilience and determination can lead to remarkable outcomes.
- **Challenge Stakeholders:** We aim to challenge and encourage the public sector, private sector, and civil society to make more meaningful contributions to youth development.

### **Call for Entries**

We invite young South Africans between the ages of 18 and 35 to enter or be nominated for the South African Youth Awards 2024. Entries are open from 10 October 2024 to 3 November 2024. Individuals and organisations can submit their entries via the official website [www.SAyouthAwards.co.za](http://www.SAyouthAwards.co.za).

“Through the South African Youth Awards, we aim to not only showcase the talents and stellar achievements of young people in the country, we also aim to create a platform for engagement between trailblazers and industry leaders across various sectors. Embracing the plight of young people in this modern society is heavily premised on equally recognising those that have broken the glass ceiling, and the SAYA's aim to do just that,” said Waseem Carrim, CEO of the NYDA.

**For more information and to submit entries, please visit [www.SAyouthAwards](http://www.SAyouthAwards) or contact Ms Lwaphesheya Khoza on [lwaphesheya.khoza@nyda.gov.za](mailto:lwaphesheya.khoza@nyda.gov.za)**