

ATTENTION: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 19 October 2023

NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CHAIRPERSON ENCOURAGES YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN PARLIAMENT PUBLIC HEARINGS

The National Youth Development Agency would like to encourage all young people to form a part of the amendment process of the NYDA Bill, Act No. 54 of 2008. Public participation is the cornerstone of South Africa's active democracy and the young people of the country are urged to partake in it.

The Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities will be hosting Public Hearings on the NYDA Amendment Bill.

In 2008, Parliament passed the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) Act, Act No. 54 of 2008, and in 2011 the NYDA Board wrote to the Minister in the Presidency to amend the Act (2008). The reasons for these amendments are to improve the efficiency of the Agency and will narrow our mandate in a way that makes it practical and systematically implementable. The youth unemployment rate, poverty, sluggish economic growth, increases in food and fuel prices all speak to the need to support young people in various spheres. "In addressing the challenges identified in the practical implementation of the original Act which is in line with Chapter 11 of the National Development Plan (NDP), it is crucial that young people are at the forefront of building an effective developmental system that will bring about improved results for vulnerable groups, whilst enhancing the state's capacity to deliver services," said the Executive Chairperson of the NYDA, Ms Asanda Luwaca.

The Parliament of the Republic of South Africa has a constitutional mandate to facilitate public participation and involvement. That is in line with the core values of the legislature being a "parliament of the people" and our laws being premised on the "will of the people". This is also in line with the goal of capacitating citizens to be active instead of passive recipients of policy.

The public hearings will take place as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 24 October 2023

Time: 09:30 -15:00

Venue: S12A, NCOP, Parliament and Zoom Platform Meeting (Hybrid)

Members of the media are encouraged to either be physically present or watch the proceedings on the following platforms:

Parliament TV: <https://www.parliament.gov.za/parliament-tv>

YouTube: @ParliamentofRSA

Facebook: Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

X: @ParliamentofRSA

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