



Statement by NYDA Chief Executive Officer

It is a pleasure and privilege to write my tenth and final foreword for the NYDA Annual Report as I will step down from my role as Chief Executive at the end of 2024. It has been the honour of my life to serve the youth development sector as both the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the NYDA. I will allow history to judge my record at the NYDA, however we believe that we handover a stronger more stable institution that can continue to tackle the myriad of challenges faced by young people.

Over the 2023 / 2024 financial year the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention which is governments flagship program for youth development achieved the following:

- An estimated 4.4 million young people are registered on the National Pathway Management Network, SAYouth. Mobi with 531 opportunity providers also registered and 1.3 million young people have secured opportunities through the platform of which 70% were young women.
- Approximately 116 000 young people have been placed in workplace experience programs and demand led skilling interventions.
- Close on 150 000 youth owned enterprises have been supported with financial and non-financial support under the Local System Enablement pillar.
- The revitalised National Youth Service has placed a cumulative 68 000 youth.

The NYDA partnered with the Independent Electoral Commission and civil society in the lead up to the 2024 National and Provincial elections to educate, encourage and support the registrations of young people for the elections. We are pleased that almost 2 million new voters registered as first-time voters.

On the international relations front, the NYDA hosted the ninth BRICS Youth Summit which culminated in the adoption of a historic BRICS Youth Council by the Heads of State with young people firmly positioning themselves at the centre of transforming the global agenda.

We have embarked on a process of culture change at the NYDA as part of our Human Resources strategy as we aim to position ourselves as a leading public sector institution that is both capable and credible. We want our people to feel proud of working for the Agency and to offer the best service possible to our youth.

The NYDA continues to partner with the public sector, private sector, civil society, organised labour and academia in addressing the challenges faced by young people. In this regard, I would express gratitude to our partners, funders and donors without whom our work would not be possible.

I wish to extend my gratitude to the retiring Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and the all the Ministers and Deputy Ministers I have served under for their unwavering support, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, the NYDA Board of Directors led by Ms Asanda Luwaca, the Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, my Executive team, NYDA employees and our partners for their contribution of youth development. I wish the newly appointed Minister Chikunga and Deputy Minister Letsike all the best in their new roles of supporting vulnerable and marginalised groups.

As we reflect on the outcome of seventh democratic elections, it is clear that South Africans want changes in their lives. As President Ramaphosa captured in the inauguration address:

“They want a transformed, growing and inclusive economy that creates jobs for millions of job seekers and offer business opportunities to all entrepreneurs in our nation – women and men, young and old. The people of South Africa have asked no more than to be properly cared for when they are sick, they want the young to be taught well, for the elderly to be cared for, and for those without work to work. They want us to put their needs and aspirations first and they want us to work together for the sake of our country.”

Mr. Waseem Carrim
NYDA Chief Executive Officer

