



NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OUR YOUTH. OUR FUTURE.

**OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON**

**INTEGRATED COMMUNITY REGISTRATION
OUTREACH PROGRAMME – KOMANI, EASTERN
CAPE**

28 NOVEMBER 2025

**SPEAKING NOTES BY THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NYDA DR.
SUNSHINE MYENDE ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTEGRATED COMMUNITY
REGISTRATION OUTREACH PROGRAMME**

28 November 2025

Programme Director,
Honourable Minister of Social Development, Mam’Nokuzola Sisisi Tolashe,
MEC Ms. Bukiwe Fanta,
Leadership of SASSA and the NDA,
Government representatives, community leaders, and the people of Komani
Representatives of sister departments,
Community leaders, faith leaders, and the people of Komani

Molweni bantu abahle abase Komani

We are honoured to be hosted by Minister Tolashe in the province of legends, for such an impactful Outreach Programme. Minister, your leadership in bringing the Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme directly to communities affirms a truth we often forget: that development is not an abstract policy housed in Pretoria; development is lived here, in the townships, in the churches, in the community halls, and in the daily struggles of our people.

As we gather in Mlungisi Township, we are reminded of the words of Frantz Fanon, who taught us that *“the real leap consists in introducing invention into existence.”* This moment, in its urgency and possibility, demands exactly that - invention, imagination, and moral intervention.

Honourable Minister, your return to Komani after only four months is not symbolic; it is a signal of a state that refuses to abandon its people. It is an intentional alignment to the Batho Pele Principles. You’ve reminded us that accountability is not a meeting - it is a practice. It is returning to the same community to assess progress, confront gaps, and renew the mandate of service.

This ICROP engagement arrives at a time when the labour market data confronts us with sobering truths. The latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey indicates that the official unemployment rate stands at 33.2%, with an estimated 8.4 million South Africans unemployed. Within this crisis, the youth remain the most vulnerable: 46.1% of young people aged 15–34 are unemployed, a figure that has remained unchanged despite marginal increases in employment.

These numbers are not abstract. They represent delayed dreams, deferred dignity, and deepening despair. They also represent what sociologists call a *crisis of social connection*, which is a breakdown in the pathways between effort and opportunity.

And in communities such as Komani, this reality is compounded by poverty, hunger, and limited access to services.

Yet, even within these national constraints, the Eastern Cape has shown resilience. According to the same QLFS release, the province recorded one of the highest increases in employment, 89 000 jobs, reminding us that progress is possible when interventions are localised and coordinated.

This is precisely why ICROP is so essential. Today is not simply an administrative exercise; it is an intervention in the lives of communities where vulnerabilities intersect - where GBV, child malnutrition, poverty, substance abuse, and gendered inequalities manifest daily. The ICROP model affirms that the District Development Model is not rhetoric but a living instrument that brings Home Affairs, Health, SASSA, the NDA, and the NYDA into a unified developmental mission.

For the NYDA, these realities compel us toward deeper action. Part and parcel of our mandate is to advance youth agency, expand economic pathways, and strengthen social inclusion.

Honourable Minister, ICROP reminds me of the concept that the NYDA Board has been discussing - Phanda Thursday's - where we will be affirming that young people are not waiting for rescue; they are crafting opportunity under difficult conditions. "Phanda" symbolises a generational ethic - a refusal to surrender despite structural barriers. We know that in Komani, young people are running micro-enterprises, volunteering in community programmes, caring for vulnerable households, and leading anti-GBV initiatives, even when no one applauds.

Minister, your leadership in convening this outreach models a principle the NYDA deeply believes in: that development must touch the ground. The service must meet people where they are - in the lines they stand in, in the hunger they confront, and in the hopes they still hold.

To the young people of Komani, let me say this: You are seen. You are capable. You are necessary. In the resilience, imagination, and courage of Komani's youth, I see a generation determined to fulfil its mission.

Let us work together as the state, community, and youth - to build a nation where dignity is not an aspiration, but a lived reality.

Siyabulela. Thank you.