



SPEAKING NOTES FOR EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON
DR SUNSHINE MYENDE

**EASTER WEEKEND SPEAKING NOTES IN UMLAZI,
ETHEKWINI AND ESKHAWINI**

03-05 APRIL 2026

**SPEAKING NOTES BY THE EXECUTIVE
CHAIRPERSON OF THE NYDA ON THE OCCASION OF THE EASTER WEEKEND
IN UMLAZI, ETHEKWINI AND ESKHAWINI | *±5 minutes***

03 - 05 April 2026

Programme Director,
Church leadership,
Bantu abasha abaseMlazi / eSkhawini / eThekwini

Sanibonani.

We meet at an important moment in the Christian calendar - Easter. A time that invites reflection, not only on faith, but on the meaning of renewal in our own lives. It reminds us that difficult seasons are not permanent, and that even where there has been uncertainty, there remains the possibility of a new beginning.

The Bible teaches us that God has plans for our lives - plans for hope and a future. That message matters, especially for young people today, because many are navigating a reality that is not always easy. There are questions about work, about direction, about what comes next. And in the midst of that, it becomes important to remain grounded - to not lose a sense of purpose, even when the path ahead is not fully clear.

Faith, in this sense, is not abstract. It shapes how you move, how you make decisions, and how you carry yourself when things do not go according to plan. It is what allows you to stay committed, to keep preparing, and to continue showing up - even when progress feels slow. As scripture reminds us, when we commit what we do to God, there is a way in which our steps begin to take shape, even if not immediately.

In our work as the NYDA, we see this play out in very practical ways across KwaZulu-Natal. We work with young people who are trying to build something for themselves, often starting with very little, but with a willingness to take initiative.



If speaking in Durban / eThekweni:

In Durban, for instance, we have supported a group of young people - both young men and young women - with over R200,000 invested into their businesses. These are enterprises in areas such as security services, legal services, delivery work and food businesses. From that support, more than 15 jobs have already been created.

If speaking in Umlazi:

In Umlazi, for instance, we have supported young people with over R140,000 invested into businesses, largely driven by young men - including young people living with disabilities. These businesses range from civil engineering and manufacturing to landscaping and digital services, and together they have already created 10 jobs within the community.

What these examples show is not just economic activity. They reflect something deeper - the willingness of young people to take responsibility for their futures, even in a challenging environment.

And as we reflect during this Easter period, we must also recognise that this year marks an important milestone in our country - 50 years since the events of June 16, 1976. That generation of young people did not have access to opportunities in the way we speak about them today. What they had was conviction. They had a sense that their lives must stand for something, even under difficult circumstances. Their actions were not about comfort alone, but they were about purpose too.

The question for us, and for you as young people today, is different but related. It is not whether you must confront the same conditions, but whether you will use the opportunities available to you with the same level of seriousness, responsibility, and awareness of what it means to contribute to society. Because freedom, in itself, is not the end point. It is the foundation upon which something must be built.

And this is where faith and action come together in a meaningful way. Belief must translate into how you live, how you prepare yourself, and how you respond when opportunities arise. The support that exists - whether through the NYDA or other platforms - can only make a difference if it is met with consistency, discipline, and a willingness to grow.



At the same time, we must remain conscious that what we are building is not only for ourselves. It is also about the kind of society we contribute to. Integrity, accountability, and respect for others remain essential. These are not abstract values - they are what sustain communities and allow progress to be shared.

As we reflect on Easter, we are reminded that renewal is possible, but it requires intention. It requires reflection, and it requires movement.

So wherever you find yourself - whether you are clear about your next step, or still trying to figure it out - what matters is that you remain grounded, that you stay committed, and that you continue to take responsibility for your own development.

Allow me to close with this: even in moments of uncertainty, strength is renewed when we remain anchored in faith. And it is from that place that we are able to move forward with clarity and purpose.

May you continue to grow, to build, and to contribute meaningfully to your communities.

I thank you.