



SPEAKING NOTES FOR EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON DR SUNSHINE MYENDE

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING **MINISTERIAL STAFF DIALOGUE** **7 NAIVASHA, SUNNINGHILL**

03 AUGUST 2026

**SPEAKING NOTES BY THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NYDA ON THE
OCCASION OF THE MINISTERIAL STAFF DIALOGUE – *Purpose of the meeting* |
±5 minutes**

03 August 2026

*Programme Director,
Honourable Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women, Youth and Persons
with Disabilities, Hon. Sindisiwe Chikunga
Members of the Board,
Chief Executive Officer,
Executive Management,
Colleagues of the National Youth Development Agency,*

Good morning.

It is both an honour and a privilege to welcome the Honourable Minister as she engages the leadership and staff of the National Youth Development Agency.

Honourable Minister, allow us to convey our sincere gratitude for making time to be with us today. Your presence speaks to the importance you attach not only to this institution, but also to the people entrusted with carrying out its mandate. We are grateful for the opportunity to engage directly with you.

Colleagues,

The purpose of today's meeting is simple yet important. It is to create a platform for open and meaningful engagement between the Executive Authority and the officials who serve this Agency every single day. As public servants, we are guided by the Batho Pele Principles, which remind us that consultation, openness and transparency, courtesy, accountability and a commitment to service excellence are not optional ideals, but the very standards by which we earn and sustain the confidence of the people we serve.



Institutions are at their strongest when leadership creates space for honest dialogue, listens with intention and communicates with clarity. Today's engagement is a reflection of those values and of our collective commitment to strengthening this institution in service of South Africa's young people.

The National Youth Development Agency occupies a unique place in our democracy. We are not merely another public entity. We are an institution established to respond to one of South Africa's greatest national priorities: the development, empowerment and advancement of young people. Every decision we take, every programme we implement and every resource entrusted to us must ultimately improve the lives of the young people we serve.

That responsibility demands more than effective programme delivery. It requires sound governance, ethical leadership, accountability, transparency and an organisational culture that places the public interest above all else. These are not simply legislative obligations - they are the foundation upon which public confidence in this institution is built.

Like every institution operating in the public sphere, the NYDA has experienced moments that have attracted public attention and scrutiny. Such moments remind us that accountability is not something to be feared; it is an essential pillar of democratic governance. They also remind us that strong institutions are not defined by the absence of challenges, but by their willingness to confront them with honesty, integrity and a shared commitment to continuous improvement.

Today's engagement therefore provides an important opportunity for the Honourable Minister to speak directly to the Agency on all matters relating to the state of the institution and matters that are important to the continued stability and credibility of the NYDA.

As officials, we should embrace this engagement in the spirit in which it is intended: as an opportunity to listen, to gain clarity, to ask ourselves how we can each strengthen this institution, and to reaffirm our shared commitment to the constitutional values that underpin public service.

Ultimately, the work of the NYDA has never been about individuals, and should never be. It has always been about the millions of young South Africans whose aspirations are tied, in one way or another, to the effectiveness of this institution. They expect an Agency that is credible. They expect leadership that is accountable. They expect public servants who conduct themselves with professionalism and integrity. Above all, they expect an institution that remains firmly focused on creating opportunities and changing lives.



Honourable Minister, we appreciate your willingness to engage us directly. We look forward to your guidance, your reflections and your vision for the continued strengthening of this Agency.

It is now my distinct honour and privilege to invite the Honourable Minister to deliver the keynote address.

I thank you.