

**MESSAGE OF SUPPORT BY EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NYDA), MS ASANDA LUWACA DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE CALL CENTER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DASTILE AND WEALTH INSURE, EAST LONDON, EASTERN CAPE, 09 JUNE 2022**

Ngqongqoshe We Sebe lophuhliso Amashishini amancinci : Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams  
Executive Deputy Mayor: Cllr Princess Faku  
MMC Cllr Afika  
Mr Vuyo Dastile  
Ms Moreese  
Ms Lynette  
Mphathi Nqubo

Distinguished Guests  
Members of the media  
Most importantly: ulutsha olukhoyo namhlanje  
Greetings – All Protocol Observed  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Andizuba calu-calula nga ma gama wam namhlanje.

As we are all aware, this year marks the 46th anniversary of the June 16 student uprising that happened in South Africa, Soweto in 1976 where students protested the imposition of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction by the apartheid regime.

As the National Youth Development Agency, we thought it fitting to officially launch the start of youth month at Morris Isaacson school which played an important role at the start of June 16 Soweto Uprising in 1976.

At the school, we were greeted by the many young faces who hold the hopes and promises of South Africa's tomorrow. We can agree that South Africa is an infinitely better place than it was in 1976. However, we can also agree that the triple challenges of poverty inequality and, unemployment are the major hindrances confronting today's youth. The question we are confronted with is "what role will the NYDA play in addressing these challenges?"

This year's National Youth Day and Youth Month will be commemorated under the theme: "Promoting sustainable livelihood and resilience of young people for a better tomorrow." It is against this backdrop that we need tangible interventions to the constantly changing work environment, having Work Readiness, Job Preparedness and Life Skills as an essential part of being able to meet the challenges of everyday life.

The NYDA recognises the commitment by the Department of Small Business and Development and its Agencies in their structured and coordinated approach under the SMME Support Plan Towards the Attainment of Vision 2030. We trust all their programmes will be underpinned by the principles of improved coordination as found in our Integrated Youth Development Strategy.

President Cyril Ramaphosa reaffirmed in his State of Nation Address governments commitment to change the material conditions of our people for the better, the poor in particular, this includes a "massive rollout of infrastructure". And that "This work will build on the foundation of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, which remains our common programme to build the economy."

He further emphasized that "To be effective, this social compact needs to include every South African and every part of our society. No one must be left behind." As the NYDA we echo the sentiments of the President, and further emphasise that in order to create more economic opportunities aimed at addressing the current economic challenges, that no young persons should be left behind.

As the NYDA, we have taken measures to increase access to information for most young people on careers, employment, and on how to start up a business. Our internship, learnership, and bursary scheme programmes have also succeeded a great deal in skilling young people and drawing significant numbers of unemployed graduates into the world of work.

The launching of this progressive Call Centre today correctly positions our work as the NYDA, with that of key stakeholders such as the Dept of Small Business Development and its Agencies. We are encouraged by the progress made by Dastile Wealth Insure under the stewardship of Tatu Dastile.

The company has already employed about 60 odd unemployed youth in the BCM and will be employing more people. We cannot overly emphasise the importance of expanding and ensuring your footprint reaches out to the most poor and disadvantaged.

There is overall consensus amongst stakeholders that whilst the efforts of the NYDA have contributed towards closing the socio-economic gap amongst young people across all provinces - this against the growing unemployment rate, poverty and inequality, there remains more to be done.

The Agency alone cannot address the many challenges confronting youth, women and people with disabilities and therefore, recognises the importance of the private sector, government and civil society in taking this opportunity to re-imagine their collective commitment, empowerment and development of youth that will be responsible for driving sustainability and innovation of organisations in the future.

It is for this reason that it is fitting to leave you with the words of Xi Jinping, from his book titled "The Governance of China" when he said: "Young people must never fear difficulties but try to overcome them; you should go to the grassroots with tough conditions and the frontline for national construction and project development to temper yourselves and enhance your capabilities".

In closing:

There are no difficulties that we the youth cannot overcome. A country can only prosper if its youth is thriving. And it is through such initiatives similar to the one the Dept of Small Business Development is launching today that we will begin to see tangible improvements of the material conditions Youth of this country find themselves in.

I am strongly of the view that, we no longer as country, have the luxury to just talk about youth development but have the collective responsibility, to make sure that it is tangible!

I am encouraged that today's launch is a practical display of the great work that can come out when we take collective responsibility of youth development. The possibilities that exist for youth truly are limitless! The once is on us young people to leverage on these opportunities and

become the Dastiles of tomorrow.

I thank you.