



women, youth &
persons with disabilities

Department:
Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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**SPEAKING NOTES FOR MINISTER
HONOURABLE MAITE NKOANE-MASHABANE
18 SEPTEMBER 2020
NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY (NYP) 2030 CONSULTATION WITH
YOUTH FORMATIONS**

**Theme “The importance of society-wide partnerships for
successful policy implementation.”**

Moderator of the Programme, Mr Mashile Mokono;

Director-General, Adv Mikateko Maluleke

Representatives of various youth political formations;

Student formations representative/s;

Youth of South Africa;

Senior Officials present;

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning, Thank you honoring the invitation and providing an opportunity to have this crucial engagement. We are here to not only reflect on the current challenges that our youth are facing, but also to zoom into how our youth can come up with innovative solutions to address the identified challenges, working with government and ALL other non-state actors. We, will today discuss the draft National Youth Policy (NYP) 2020-2030 and the National Youth Development Agency Amendment Bill.

The youth policy and NYDA Bill are being discussed, whilst the country is still rumpling with the aftermath of COVID-19. One of the important ramification worth mentioning - is the government’s shrinking resource base due to the contraction of GDP by just over 16% between the first and

second quarters of 2020, giving an annual growth rate of -51%. This context is exacerbated by unprecedented reports of corruption littered throughout media houses. In essence, these are the issues that should influence the policy direction of youth development and thus be included in the National Youth Policy

Therefore, given this context, the National Youth Policy is multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder policy which spells out clear and policy statements in order to strengthen acceleration in implementing youth development interventions in the country. It highlights the critical key challenges that affect youth and hamper their development in a quest to transition smoothly into adulthood. The past two policies were designed to be implemented for the 5 year periods. However, the current youth policy under discussion covers a ten-year lifespan to align with the NDP 2030. It strives to ensure adequate time for effective collaboration, coordination and implementation of key interventions across society; whilst promoting accountability and reporting by relevant stakeholders within the youth development space. In the end, the policy is intended to ensure positive youth development outcomes so that young people's lives can improved and they can in turn become active contributing members of our society.

In August 2019, I approved the commencement of the process to review the NYP 2030 and appointed members to the Technical Reference Team (TRT) to oversee development of a new youth policy for South Africa. The Reference Team consists of: Department of Women Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD); National Youth Development Agency (NYDA); National Treasury; Departments of Basic Education; Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology; Department of Trade and Industry; Department of Public Service and Administration; Department of Cooperate Governance and Traditional Affairs; South African Youth Council; United Nations Population Fund; University of South Africa; University of Cape Town; the Black Business Council and Business Unity South Africa. This multi-stakeholder team ensured that the review of the NYP was a collaborative effort building on input from all sectors of society, especially youth themselves.

The current draft youth policy, has undergone extensive consultation with youth, Government Clusters and the public at large, over a nearly eight-month period. Substantive inputs and comments were received from a wide range of stakeholders within the state, private sector and civil society organisations. Important to note, is that the policy emphasized the need to further strengthen quality education and skills development; scale up employment initiatives including supporting young entrepreneurs; and address social needs to prevent erosion of the social fabric of our society.

Secondly, we will also present the NYDA Amendment Bill, which aims to strengthen the National Youth Development Agency, so that it can continue to be a responsive Agency to our young people's needs. The Amendment Bill repositions the Agency by refocusing its broad mandate and resolves the many governance challenges that have beset the Agency. It also acknowledges that the Agency is not a panacea for youth development, hence its role is analysed in relation to the roles of other role players within the youth development space.

Cdes, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Deborah Stone's book, titled *Paradox of Policy*, asserts that "*policy making and analysis is incomplete without critical consideration of politics*". With this understanding, I deemed it necessary to convene this august gathering to discuss these two important instruments to reflect the critical voice of politics in the country. It is without a doubt that without the youth voice and perspective, this process will remain incomplete.

I look forward to your invaluable support and participation in making sure that the sector has quality policy and legislative tools, that can help create a conducive enabling environment for our young people and maximize positive impacts.

The world can only be a better place when young people have the autonomy to build their own trajectories.

I Thank you!