



women, youth &
persons with disabilities

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



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CLOSING REMARKS BY
MINISTER MAITE NKOANA-MASHABANE
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Programme Director;

DG for the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities;

Representatives of youth formations;

Distinguished guests, panelists, participants and young people

Allow me to appreciate the contributions from all of you today. You have built on the contributions of the young people who submitted oral and written comments/ inputs. The conversation around the National Youth Policy does not end today, just like our role in mitigating the impact of the Corona Virus pandemic or our daily dealing to eradicate Gender Based Violence and Femicide. We now have an opportunity to shape a youth-focused and impactful response to these two pandemics and as well as other persistent challenges that continue to affect our youth.

We remain committed to keeping youth development as a priority, even as we respond to the pandemic. Our work will be guided by showing outcomes, impacts and results. We believe that by engaging young people as active

role players, we are on the right path to accelerate implementation of interventions and restore inherent dignity for our youth. The amendment of the NYDA Act also presents the youth sector with an opportunity to reposition the Agency to respond more comprehensively to the needs of our youth population.

As the leader of a Ministry that is strategically placed to lead, support, coordinate, monitor and evaluate implementation of youth development across various sectors in all spheres of society, I commit myself and the rest of the department in ensuring that required institutional capacity is strengthened to ensure youth policy implementation across government, business and civil society. The amendment of the NYDA Act will also promote its efficiency and effectiveness, thus ensuring responsiveness to young people's needs.

Therefore, it is crucial that we act together with speed and a great sense of urgency, in order to reap the benefits for youth development fully and to take South Africa forward. In doing that, we will be realising the vision outlined in the National Development Plan of an equal and just society, despite the current setbacks brought about by COVID-19 pandemic.

I thank you all for your participation and invaluable contributions and trust that we will continue to reimagine the future together - through the lens of young people. ***“Never think you are too small to bite, if you think so, you have never been in the dark with mosquito”***

I Thank You!