

NYDA cannot afford to be a graduation school for ANCYL members

By Luyolo Mphithi MP - DA Shadow Minister on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Hon. Chairperson

When looking at the National Development Agency (NYDA) you see exactly why an ANC government can never empower our young people the ANC way. You see chairperson, the NYDA represents exactly the ANC way in confronting the dire challenges facing our society. It is a seemingly well-intentioned bloated bureaucracy, run by ANCYL cadres installed as the arbiters of patronage. The only difference with the NYDA of today is that it is a less wasteful bloated entity when compared to most government departments and the skothanes NYDA of the past.

And whilst it should be acknowledged for succeeding in cleaning up its act, the NYDA continues to leave women, youth, and people with disabilities behind. Looking at the budget adjustment of the NYDA It is most concerning to see that programme two which deals with job opportunities for young people has seen a reduction of R16.9 Million. The International Labour Organisation tells us that even before Covid-19, young people were already 3 times more likely to be unemployed.

For those who are employed, 77 percent are working in the informal sectors of the world with precarious conditions trying to fight off moderate to extreme levels of poverty at home. South Africa is no different. Before our President convened millions of our fellow South Africans to discuss Covid-19, there was already another pandemic which has been haunting youth for decades, 'Unemployment'.

The minister has failed to provide guidance to the NYDA the very same way she has failed this department. If indeed the Minister cared, she would have called on the Minister of Finance out on his failure to mention anything significant on young people in his Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

It is clear that the NYDA still does not have an adequate plan to reach young people in rural areas. It is still unclear how its core mandate of funding entrepreneurs, supporting youth businesses and providing bursaries and skills training for young people in rural areas is being achieved.

It is not so long ago, when the DA raised the fact that the board chairperson and CEO had personal drivers to drive them around. Imagine being celebrities with the taxpayer's money.

The NYDA's focus should be on funding of entrepreneurs, job creation and business development support, providing bursaries, skills training, and job preparedness. It cannot be that there is less for our people and more to be consumed by the entity itself. This is the ANC way of countless bloated entities and unnecessary departments often with overlapping mandates and functions all created so that loyal cadres can get and distribute a piece of the pie.

As the NYDA board interviews loom I want to make it very clear that the DA will stand against the further politicisation of the NYDA. We did so during the shortlisting process, and we will do so again during the interviews. The NYDA cannot afford to be a graduation school for SASCO, ANCYL, and YCL cadres. Young people of South Africa deserve a chance as well.

I thank you.