



## ROLE OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BRANCH AND THE NYDA NARRATIVE REPORT

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this narrative report is to appraise the Portfolio Committee on role clarification between the National Youth Development branch of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA).

### 2. INTRODUCTION

The NYDA reports to the Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. The National Youth Development branch within the DWYPD fulfils the administrative function of conducting oversight of the NYDA in support of the Minister as the Executive Authority.

### 3. BACKGROUND

Established in 2005, the National Youth Development branch was first established as a Youth Desk, located in The Presidency. It was then moved to the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in 2014 and upgraded into a branch. In 2019, the branch moved to the newly reconfigured DWYPD.

The National Youth Development branch has two directorates, namely:

- a) Youth Policy, Legislation, Monitoring and Evaluation; and
- b) Youth Stakeholder Engagement.

Each of the directorates is managed by a Director, with one post recently vacated and unfunded due to budget cuts. This has left the already under capacitated unit, grossly under resourced.

#### 4. ROLE OF NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

The function and roles of the National Youth Development branch of DWYPD are to:

- a) Develop and review socio-economic regulatory frameworks for youth development;
- b) Develop Monitoring and Compliance tools to help track implementation across sectors in all spheres of government;
- c) Develop supplementary documents for the NYP such as guidelines and action plans;
- d) Mainstream and support government departments in mainstreaming youth development within their sectorial policies and programmes;
- e) Ensure alignment of sector specific strategic plans and annual performance plans to the NYP and national priorities;
- f) Conduct oversight of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA);
- g) Support civil society and private sectors on youth development initiatives;
- h) Coordinate relevant stakeholders and ensure reporting.
- i) Support the political principals on stakeholder engagements at national and international levels (e.g. UN; AU; SADC; Commonwealth; BRICS; and Y20;).
- j) Promote business excellence including undertaking research that is cross cutting on long-term trends and analyse implementation to inform short and medium term plans related to youth development.

The NYDA reports to the Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. As indicated above part of the role of the National Youth Development branch within the DWYPD is fulfilling the administrative function of conducting oversight to the NYDA in support of the Minister as the political principal and Executive Authority. In terms of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), there is a need to “*secure transparency, accountability, and sound management of the revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the institutions to which this Act applies.*” The financial oversight role to assist the NYDA in meeting the objectives of the PFMA is performed by the DWYPD through the Finance unit.

The PFMA further indicates in section 62 (2) that, “the *Executive Authority responsible for a public entity under the ownership control of the national or a provincial executive must exercise that executive’s ownership control powers to ensure that the public entity complies with this Act and the financial policies of that Executive.*”

In addition to the PFMA, the working relationship between the DWYPD and NYDA is governed by a Shareholder Performance Agreement. A Shareholder Performance Agreement was signed between the DWYPD and the NYDA with effect from 01 April 2020. It shall endure for a period of three years, subject to the term of office of the Board.

The National Treasury Annual Report Guide for Schedule 3A and 3C Public Entities contemplates the setting of performance targets for the NYDA and this Shareholder Performance Agreement is designed to give effect to that approach and to establish and state clear parameters of the relationship between the department as the Shareholder and the NYDA.

The purpose of this Shareholder Agreement is to:

- a) clearly define the facilitative role of the Executive Authority and also to ensure that the relationship between the parties is conducted in an enabling manner that espouses due obligations and decisions delivered in a co-operative fashion within the context of the PFMA and NYDA Act;
- b) set out the mandating process of NYDA;
- c) set out the process of developing the assessment criteria to be used to facilitate the assessment and monitoring of the Board’s performance against predetermined objectives;
- d) guide the relationship between the parties at strategic as well as operational levels;
- e) strengthen the corporate governance processes between the parties;
- f) outline how the parties will work together to ensure an appropriate balance between performance (delivery) and conformance (control/compliance), and to avoid duplication of roles and responsibilities;

- g) serve as a formal performance agreement between the Executive Authority and the Accounting Authority, to give effect to the mandate bestowed on the NYDA;
- h) reflect the expectations and responsibilities of each of the parties, expressed in terms of outcomes and outputs that need to be achieved, as well as inputs and frameworks needed to ensure those outcomes;
- i) where applicable, implement good practice guidelines as recommended in the King Report on Corporate Governance for South Africa and the Protocol on Governance in the Public Sector, 2002; and
- j) according to Treasury Regulation 18.4, make provision as required, for the designated department, in its Annual Report, to report certain information about its public entity.

Oversight of the National Youth Development branch over the NYDA involves the following:

- a) assessing and quality assuring the Annual Performance Plan, Strat Plan and other related operational documents of the NYDA;
- b) assessing and quality assuring the quarterly performance reports of the NYDA;
- c) quarterly performance review meeting with the NYDA;
- d) facilitating transfer of funds to the NYDA;
- e) oversight visits to the NYDA branches;
- f) compile oversight visit reports;
- g) provide support to political principals on matters relating to the NYDA such as events and engagements with the NYDA or its stakeholders;
- h) quarterly performance review/ feedback sessions with the NYDA;
- i) support the NYDA on reporting to Cabinet; and
- j) support the NYDA on reporting to Parliament.

The intention of NYDA branch is to also demonstrate the value of on-site monitoring of branches and on-site verification of the reported results to inform planning and catalyse improvements.

## **5. Partnerships with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA)**

The department has been working with the NYDA on numerous projects. Since the policy making function was handed over, the branch has worked closely with the NYDA on the formulation and review of regulatory frameworks. There is also collaboration in national and international engagements. In most cases, the department works with the agency in conducting cross cutting research.

In line with the proposal by the Portfolio Committee, the National Youth Development branch in the department is pursuing further possible joint projects with the NYDA on:

- ✓ Development of an M&E framework with high level indicators, to track how young people are benefiting in the value chain of Green Economy (Agriculture and Agro-processing); Minerals resources and Energy; Tourism; Manufacturing; Digital Economy; Infrastructure spend; Procurement; Creative Industries; Blue/ Ocean Economy etc.
- ✓ Youth Skills and Employment Initiative, currently being presented to Cabinet via the clusters.
- ✓ National Youth Resilience Initiative.
- ✓ Evaluation of Youth Employment Initiatives.
- ✓ Rapid Evaluation of the NYDA.
- ✓ Capacity building programme for youth focal persons.
- ✓ Africa-German Youth Initiative.

## **6. Challenges and measures to address them**

At times, there is role confusion between the department and the NYDA. This is largely due to the NYDA's broad legislative mandate. This was addressed through a Shareholder Performance Agreement and there will be further clarity provided once the NYDA Amendment Bill is passed into Law.

There is gross understaffing affecting capacity to support the EA in overseeing the NYDA including ensuring reporting as well as performance of M&E and support role to other key players within the youth development space. In addition, the budget of the unit is extremely inadequate. This is successful discharge of the leadership role and constraint to conceptualization of joint effective

interventions. The bulk of the budget is paid as subscription to the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

To address some of these challenges, there is a need for joint planning and pooling of resources as well as collaboration on stakeholder engagements. This is crucial given that both the NYDA and the Department target same beneficiaries and work singlehandedly or jointly with the same stakeholder.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Portfolio Committee takes note of the role of DWYPD's National Youth Development Programme in relation to the NYDA.

Compiled by:



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**Dr R. Bernice Hlagala**

Chief Director for Youth Development

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