



Submission to Parliament Form

1. Date, Topic Submitted to and Name of Receiving Committee

Date	6 June 2023
Topic or Bill	National Youth Development Agency Amendment Bill (B13-2022)
Name of Committee	Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

2. Submission is from:

First and Surname	Dr Stanley Maphosa
Nominated to Represent the Organisation	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Name of Organisation (if nominated to represent the organisation)	Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF)
Position in Organisation	Chief Programs Officer
Aims of the Organisation	The vision of the Fund is to <i>change the way society treats its children and youth</i> . We do this by giving voice and dignity to the African child and by building a rights-based movement.
How many people belong to the organisation	36 staff members

3. Contact Details

Postal Address	P.O. Box 797 Highlands North 2037
Street Address	21 Eastwold Way, Saxonwold 2196, Gauteng
Province	Gauteng
Tel Number	(+27) 11 274-5600
Cell Number	0738254188
Email	StanleyM@nmcf.co.za

4. Do you want to appear before the Committee? **Yes** No

5. Do you wish others to appear with you before the Committee? **Yes** No





6. If your answer is YES for the above, provide the name(s), surname (s) and role(s) of people you want to appear with before the committee.

Name	Surname	Role
Dr Linda	Ncube- Nkomo	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Samukelisiwe	Mnguni	Program Manager- Youth Leadership Program (YLP)
Nandi	Makhanya	Digital Marketing Specialist

7. Introduction

Youth constitute nearly a third of South Africa’s population and amendment of the Bill will contribute towards building a highly skilled labour force and increase support for entrepreneurship. This will contribute towards addressing the triple developmental challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment that affect the youth the most.

The amendment of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) Act seeks to address the challenges identified in the practical implementation of the original Act, in line with Chapter 11 of the National Development Plan (NDP). The National Development Plan highlighted the need to build an effective development system that brought about improved results for vulnerable groups, whilst enhancing the state’s capacity to deliver services. The amendment should advance effective and efficient service provision as articulated in the medium-term strategic framework (MTSF) of the current administration. The amendment should contribute to the attainment of the NDP’s goal of ensuring a capable, developmental and ethical state that direct implementation of the district development model (DDM). The Fund support the process, consultations, and the parliamentary process of the amendment of the Bill with the hope that it would contribute positively to the overall functionality of the NYDA as an organisation and to young people as its primary beneficiary.

The comments to the considered for the amendment of the Bill should enhance the operational effectiveness of the NYDA in expanding its reach and increasing responsiveness to young people’s needs.





8. State your Concern on the Bill. Please support your views by examples

Objects and functions of the Agency

The proposed objects of the NYDA that include initiating, designing and piloting youth development programmes are commendable in paper. These should translate to adequate funding, effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The NYDA should report to the executive authority on the implementation of annual youth development priorities while deliberately promoting the interests of the youth and contributing to the development of the National Youth Policy and an Integrated Youth Development Strategy. The NYDA objects should be influenced and affected by the youth themselves. Adequate consultation not only for the amendment of the Bill but for projects and programs of the youth should be the mainstay of the NYDA. Youths should take responsibility for policy formulation. Youths should decide the policies that concern them. The Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) should remove the NYDA from the schedule 3 list of entities without the powers to develop policies and be placed on scheduled 2.

The principals of youth development (Section 4 of the NYDA Act of 2008) should be restored in the amendment Bill. It was a useful guide to how the NYDA's interventions should be designed and implemented. The current amended Bill fails to recognize that the youth of SA are not homogeneous. The amendment Bill does not prioritise the challenges being faced by youths, as it was mostly about the removal and replacements of competencies that neither strengthened the NYDA nor improved the lives of young people. Hence, it is very important for Section 4 of the NYDA Act of 2008 be reinstated in the amended Bill.

The amended NYDA Bill should address the challenges in the traditional Act that relate to the execution of its broad legislated mandate. The mandate of the NYDA is too broad that it is not easily implemented by the entity. The amendment of the NYDA Bill is supported in it being geared towards intensifying the youth development service provision. A balancing act is, however, needed on how the objectives of the Agency are





captured. The objectives are currently captured in an expansive manner rather than being short descriptions that would be easily understood by the youth. The Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament (NMCP), which has been operating for the past ten (10) years, is a youth participation platform that the NYDA should consider supporting and participate actively in to ensure that the policy makers especially those in the lower end of the youth age range hear the youth voices. The NYDA should consider working in partnership with organisations that work with young people like the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) in a more organised and structured way for mutual benefit.

Reporting by the Agency

Ideally, the NYDA should report to the President through its board, as was previously the case. This would secure its independence and enable it to achieve the objectives of young people with all the government departments. The NYDA should not have its decision-making as the Agency or entity taken over by the Minister. The Bill needs to include provincial, district and local level representation. These provincial, district and local level boards or councils should be set up by the NYDA in order to reach all youth across the country. This will be expensive and will thus require that the National Treasury consider increasing the budget of the NYDA as youth challenges and issues are important in this country. If the budget is a challenge as it is, the agency should link with youth offices at the local level and District level. There should also be links with the Office on the Rights of the Child (ORCs) that are located in the Offices of the Provincial Premiers. There seems to be duplication, lack of coordination and silos that need to integrate.

The publishing of the report should be accessible to youth all over the country. The language in the report and in the Bill should be youth friendly and needs to be simplified so that the youth can engage with it properly. NYDA must engage with CSOs on the best way to promote the report and other crucial services and products developed by the NYDA.





Board members

The increase in the numbers of the members of the board from seven to ten is not commendable due to the increased financial implications. Rather, the NYDA should utilise civil society organisations and other stakeholders' capacity on an advisory basis. Young people below the age of 35 should be included in the Board of the NYDA. The entity leadership should demonstrate the youth demographics in South Africa. A fifty- fifty (50/50) gender representation on the board is necessary. This should be merit-based rather than affirmative action with meaningful representation for persons with disabilities and all other vulnerable groups of young people. The process of filling the vacancies should remain a parliamentary decision, to ensure a uniform decision-making process as it had been for years. The removal of board members must be a collaboration between the Minister and Parliament. In the case, the Minister should facilitate the processes after the parliamentary decisions have been made. The educational requirements for the board as well as some interventions of the NYDA place limitations on youths without access to education to partake in the Agency, although they can provide lessons from their personal entrepreneurial experiences. This requirement does not extend to the Members of Parliament, the Ministers and the Presidency.

Agency's service delivery model

The NYDA's service delivery model should not ignore technology. Most of the youth are in the social media spaces. Those that are not there have access to mobile phones for themselves or those that stay with them. In that way, technology should be made available to the youth to interact with the NYDA and its partners. This does not mean that the NYDA should exclude reaching out to youth through traditional means. The community media for example, the radios and newspapers still attract young people. In between the music that is played by community radios stations that the youth follow, messaging and programming of the NYDA should be inserted considering the listening span of the young people. The Agency working through CSOs like the Fund would be best suited to reach young people on the ground.





The bill should promote the visibility and access of the NYDA's products and services. This should be particularly so for youths in the rural areas who are not able to easily access the NYDA services. The Fund works across the country with and through implementing partners, which are community-based organisations. Many of these implementing partners are in far-flung communities where there is a glaring absence of the NYDA. The bill should improve that and ensure that the Agency is truly national as its name implies.

The concerns that need to be covered in the bill are as follows:

Youth should be at the centre of the Bill

The amendments on the Bill are institutional in nature and are not centred on youth. The realities and the challenges of the youth should get the attention in the plans, budgets, and interventions at the local, district, provincial and national levels. The NYDA should be more focused on empowering youth, rather than providing service delivery interventions that create dependence syndrome.

Alignment of policies

The Bill should show alignment to the Constitution of South Africa, and other legislation/ legal frameworks that are relevant to the youth in South Africa, Southern Africa, Africa and globally that the country has ratified. There should be an emphasis for the NYDA to provide a coordinated and integrated response to the challenges of the youth in South Africa.

Recommendations/suggestions:

- I. The language used in the Bill should be simplified so that youth will be able to engage adequately with this document.
- II. The NYDA needs to establish a clear organogram, starting from the local level of governance right to the Presidency. Issues related to youth can be found in all departments at all levels,





hence the amendment Bill needs to be clear on the governance structure of the NYDA. This is to ensure better coordination of their products and services at all governance levels.

- III. National Treasury should consider increasing the budget of the NYDA as youth challenges and issues are important in this country. Attached to this is the NYDA objects and status as a Section 3 entity, which should be changed to enable it to develop policies for and with the youth. The NYDA should also align with other spheres of government and deliberately collaborate with like-minded civil society organisations. Invest technical and financial resources to ensure that young people have access to NYDA products, services and programs in youth-friendly formats, and in languages that they understand.
- IV. Include board members below the age of 35 and consider the youth as a heterogeneous population. The gap between the 19 year old and the 35 year old is huge, and the challenges experienced by each age group are vastly different. The whole age range of what is called youth should be represented in the board of the NYDA.
- V. The service delivery method of the NYDA should be a mixed method of utilising traditional media and technology in order to reach all the young people especially in the hard to reach rural communities. Diversity in the service delivery mode will reach as many youth thus creating the needed impact for the NYDA.
- VI. The Bill should align with existing policies and help to enforce the same, especially with regards to youth participation and the challenges affecting young people from local level and their link to Africa and the global community.

10. Who else supports you?

Name	Surname	Role
Zamajozi	Sithole	Project Officer
Chumani	Nkwinti	Project Officer





Carmel	Gaillard	Program Manager
Anzio	Jacobs	Project Officer
Charity	Mamathuba	Project Officer
Shadi	Nyokong	Program Manager
Phumla	Dyantyi	Project Officer
Eunice	Seleke	Project Officer
Mapule	Cheela	Program Manager
Zandile	Tshabalala	Project Officer
Thabiso Tsietsi	Lakajoe	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
Pinky	Mashigo	Program Manager
Carol	Motang	Program Administrator

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