

**SPEECH BY THE MAYOR OF ELIAS MOTSOLEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY CLLR JULIA LATA MATHEBE
DURING THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE NYDA SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT OFFICES HELD AT
GROBLERSDAL RUGBY STADIUM**

Programme Director,

Honourable Speaker, Cllr Tladi

Chief Whip of council, Cllr Phahlamohlaka

Executive committee member

NYDA Chairperson Mr Mtswani

Members of the NYDA board

My colleague's councillor present here,

Municipal Manager and Her Team

Members of the Media

Good Morning

It is with great honour and privilege for me to address you today on a month that we honour those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom and democracy that each and every one of us enjoys today and most importantly during the year in which we celebrate the centenary of both Tata Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Nontsikelelo Sisulu.

This is an occasion of great significance for our Municipality and our people in particular. It marks the official launch of an initiative that is set to change the lives of many young South Africans in the municipality, towns and villages across the District. This is a timely, worthy and ambitious response to youth unemployment which is perhaps the greatest and most pressing social and economic challenge facing our country at this moment in our history. This is the partnership with the NYDA to expand the NYDA footprint in an attempt to bring its services and products closer to the young people

Programme director

The facilities will allow the young people of Sekhukhune to have access to all the services of the NYDA, including applications for funding to further their studies through the NYDA Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund. It will also allow young people access to information on the Grant Programme, Business Consultancy services, Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Job Preparedness Programme and Career Guidance Information.

The Municipality like the Government believes that we have a crucial role to play in providing opportunities for our young citizens, to empower and improve themselves so that they can live lives they value.

Unemployment and underdevelopment in our society remains one of the disconcerting factors in our lives today. It becomes even critical when our youth are victims of these consequences. South Africa is a youthful country, which makes our youth the majority by far. For our country to prosper and become successful, it requires our youth to be active players in the mainstream economy.

However, as we are all aware this is not the situation. Many youths including our graduates remain unemployed despite torturing years of study at institutions of higher learning. Without a shadow of a

doubt, investment in our youth would yield huge returns for the country and its people. It is for this reason that all of us here have to make sure that our youth remain key to achieving this mammoth task.

My task is the easiest in the sense that I am required to say we welcome the offices of NYDA in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality, it is my pleasure to announce that the local people of this area will benefit from this full service centre. In this regard I am proud to announce that the NYDA has fulfilled its mandate to bring the offices of NYDA closer to the people as opposed to the past when they were required to travel long distances to access their services and here today we say all those are things of the past.

In an effort of making our own contribution to this centre we will make sure that young people of this district are informed about the centre so that they can improve the quality of their life and change their socio economic statuses.

Programme director in this regard I would like to make it abundantly clear that what we see today in front of us is the government commitment to take care of its youth, let us use this office in a good manner that is characterized with pride, sense of ownership and respect.

Thank you...