



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Statement  
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## **Glimmer of hope for youth as Limpopo commemorates Youth Day 2022**

There was a glimmer of hope as thousands of Limpopo young people came out in their numbers to commemorate Youth Day, June 16, at Shongwane Stadium, in the Lephalale Local Municipality. The guidance offered by the Limpopo Provincial Government and its partners has spurred the youth to pick up from the lull that COVID-19 had cast over the country and the world.

Despite the COVID-19 setbacks, the Limpopo Provincial Government kick-started the 2022 Youth Month with great determination and unleashed a month-long programme of activities for youth to tap on. So far, the activities are yielding positive results in all districts.

“I applied for funding from National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) through their website [www.nyda.org.za](http://www.nyda.org.za). I was approved for grant funding of R50 000, and I have employed four young staff members. I encourage all young people interested in getting support for their business to apply and help in fighting unemployment, inequality and poverty as we recover from the scourge of coronavirus,” said Belinda Lebelo, a 30-year-old owner of Internet Café and stationery supplier. Lebelo currently supplies stationery to local schools in and around Thabo Mbeki village in Lephalale.

Speaking at the Limpopo Provincial Youth Day celebrations, Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha said: “The COVID-19 pandemic has destroyed businesses which were providing jobs to young people or closed companies that were owned by young people. Government is assisting these businesses to recover and reopen their doors, to recover jobs which were lost because of COVID-19. We are working hard to ensure that all businesses that had to shut their doors because of COVID-19 are reopened.”

Premier Mathabatha further implored the youth to grab available entrepreneurial opportunities and start their own businesses. It will not only provide income but help in achieving inclusive growth and economic freedom, he remarked.

Government offered avenues for such opportunities to be explored through workshops and dialogues across districts. The National Lottery Grant funding workshop held in Bela Bela was attended by 200 youth. They were assisted with business plans, application for funding and establishment of ECDs. Most of these later went to the National Lottery Polokwane offices to finalise their funding applications.

In another workshop held in Waterberg, over 80 applicants had their Funza Lushaka bursaries assessed for approval. Once finalized, these young people will specifically study towards teaching.

There was also Capricorn Youth Dialogue whereby various formation of political parties raised issues pertaining to unemployment, Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) and SMMEs interventions.

The activities for youth empowerment are continuing throughout the month in various municipalities, with the support of NYDA and other stakeholders.

NYDA Jerry Shirinda said: “We will ensure that young people of Limpopo realise their vision for economic participation through our grant programme and additional business development and support programme.”

At the end, the general entertainment at the Limpopo Youth Day celebrations was provided by young people, dancing in jovial mood throughout the warm winter day in Waterberg, signaling a revival for avenues to empower young people. A glimmer of hope!

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