



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO : ALL MEDIA HOUSES

DATE : 11 AUGUST 2020

MEDIA STATEMENT: ATM YOUTH LEAGUE RUBBISHES THE RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES FOR THE NYDA BOARD

The African Transformation Movement Youth League rejects and rubbishes the recommended names for the NYDA board. The process was biased and lacks credibility.

The list lacks, in terms of demographics, holistic representation especially in a country where approximately 65% of the youth is unemployed. According to CEIC Data, South Africa's unemployment rate is projected to be 35% by December 2020, this is an extremely high and absurd outlook in a democratic South Africa.

If we allow partisanship to continue as evidenced in the selection criteria used to nominate the NYDA Board candidates, this unemployment rate will continue to surge. It cannot be that more than half of the nominees are from the ruling party, when there are young people with diverse skills, who are engaged in youth development programs and initiatives which contribute tremendously to activism, socioeconomic development and youth leadership.

To curb the widening gap between the rich and poor caused by the rising unemployment rate which is an obvious failure on government to enforce effective, youth-centric policy implementation; 2) perpetual cronyism that enables corruption; 3) outright incompetency of office-bearers; and 4) indecisive leadership from the entire executive, the ATMYL Youth League calls for National Assembly to halt this appointment process until a fair, inclusive selection process is followed, where all demographic factors are taken into consideration.

We call on the government of South Africa to **#PutSouthAfricansFirst**, especially and particularly the marginalized young people of this country. Opportunities to participate meaningfully and progressively in the country's economic development should be youth-centric.

It is for this reason that we categorically demand that a vibrant, diverse, professional, uncompromising on leadership excellence NYDA board be sought and appointed to serve the best interests of the organisation, the NYDA.

We repeat, the NYDA is NOT an extension of the ruling party's Youth League. Do the right thing, **#PutSAYouthFirst!**

Peace in our Land! Peace in our Lifetime!

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Issued by the African Transformation Movement Youth League

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