

Protocol:

- Programme Director
- Deputy Minister, Dr Chana Pilane Majake MP
- Director General of the DPSA - Ms Yoliswa Makhasi
- Executive Chair of the National Youth Development Agency – Ms. Asanda Luwaca
- Chairperson of the PSETA - Mr Thulani Tshefuta
- Acting Director for the Centre for Public Service Innovation – Ms. Lydia Sebokedi
- Chief Executive of the Innovation Hub – Adv Pieter Holl
- Resident Representative UNDP in South Africa – Dr Ayodele Odusola
- Most importantly - Future of Work Ambassadors present
- Ladies and gentlemen

The Department of Public Service and Administration in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the Public Sector Education Authority (PSETA) and the United National Development Programme (UNDP)

today launches the Future of Work Ambassadors Programme.

This follows on the Youth Day (16 June 2022) national commemoration, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that government will launch the Future of Work Ambassadors Programme to improve and modernise the recruitment and retention of youth in the public service.

With this Programme, Government seeks to pursue innovative new ways of linking learning with earning.

Youth in South Africa continues to be disadvantaged in the labour market with an unemployment rate higher than the national average. According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for the first quarter of 2022, the unemployment rate was 63,9% for those aged 15-24 and 42,1% for those aged 25-34 years, while the current official national rate stands at 34,5%.

Although the graduate unemployment rate remains relatively low in South Africa compared to those of other educational levels, unemployment among the youth continues to be high, irrespective of educational attainment.

Year-on-year, the unemployment rate among young graduates (aged 15-24 years) declined from 40,3% to 32,6%, while it increased by 6,9 percentage points to 22,4% for those aged 25-34 years in Q1: 2022.

The Future of Work Ambassadors Programme will see the placement of 33 young graduates on internship programmes across selected national and provincial departments for a duration of 24 months, where the participants will be provided with practical exposure to the workplace and be capacitated with skills and training to complement their academic credentials.

The purpose of the programme is to bring a different approach to government's graduate recruitment programme that is focused on future skills. The public service seeks to build a foundation and legacy to ensure that it recruits and retains a coterie of fresh skills and energetic candidates in the public service.

The programme will unlock potential in young graduates to enhance their capacity and to grow them to be future leaders in the public service.

The target group is youth between the ages of 18 and 35 and this new cohort of future public servants is expected to receive skills that will enable them to become progressive thinkers who are innovators and problem-solvers.

We are seeking to institutionalize this programme in order to support the ideals of the National Development Plan as articulated on Chapter 13. This is part of the larger goal of professionalising the public service to be a career of choice for young people.

Our endeavour is to provide the participants with workplace exposure to improve their employability and value offering to the public service and for them to establish long term careers in the public sector.

The Inaugural 33 graduates and future participants in the programme will be placed in various departments nationally and provincially and will receive a monthly stipend of R6,275 for a duration of 24 months.

The Ambassadors will receive:

- training in their fields of qualification, and

- mentorship and exchange of knowledge, experiences and ideas on how the public service can serve the citizens better.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will also expose the selected candidates to international peer learning through exposing them to public service management in other countries.

The current cohort of graduates that are being recruited are from the following fields:

- Finance and Supply Chain Management
- Law
- Risk Management
- Human Resource Management
- Communications
- Marketing Management
- Public Management

- Public Administration, and
- Internal Audit.

Young people bring in innovation and fresh ideas that will strengthen the public service talent conduit.

The programme will provide the youth with an opportunity to offer their creative and innovative ideas into the transformation of the public service and to gear government up for an improved state of service delivery.

Government has always been vocal about the need for a policy direction that will ensure an inclusive developmental public service that is responsive to citizens' needs.

Our aim is to build a cadre of public servants who are agile, resilient, dedicated and embody the required

capacity and values as they traverse their careers in the public service.

Programme Director:

As South African youth continue to bear the burden of unemployment, they are also key to building a public service that is innovative and versatile. With this Programme, graduates with the identified fields of qualification qualify to apply into the programme.

It is therefore our hope that the Future of Work Ambassadors Programme will strengthen and modernise recruitment and retention of youth in the public service and provide a comprehensive experience of ‘learning while earning.’

Thank you.