

NDA Hosts Minister Dina Pule for Her First Official Engagement

The National Development Agency (NDA) on Friday, 10 July 2026, hosted the Honourable Minister of Social Development, Ms Dina Pule, during her first official engagement with the Agency. The visit provided an opportunity for the Minister to engage with Executive Management, gain insight into the NDA's legislative mandate, strategic priorities and organisational repositioning, and share her vision for strengthening community development across South Africa.

The engagement was attended by Acting Chief Executive Officer Ms Raphaahle Ramokgopa, Acting Director-General of the Department of Social Development, Advocate Gugulethu Thimane, members of Executive Management and NDA officials.

Welcoming the Minister, Ms Ramokgopa outlined the purpose of the engagement and presented an overview of the NDA's legislative mandate, programme performance, organisational repositioning journey and strategic priorities. She highlighted the Agency's role in promoting sustainable community development through grant funding, institutional capacity building and support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs). While acknowledging the Agency's achievements, she noted that limited resources remain a significant challenge, underscoring the need to strengthen partnerships and enhance organisational effectiveness to maximise the NDA's developmental impact.

The Minister also received a briefing on the NDA's Turnaround Strategy, which seeks to reposition the Agency as South Africa's leading community development institution. The strategy focuses on strengthening resource mobilisation, accelerating digital transformation, enhancing research and policy influence, expanding investment in community development initiatives, improving organisational effectiveness and diversifying funding through stronger partnerships with government, development partners, donors and the private sector.

Public Service

In her address, Minister Pule thanked the Agency for the warm welcome and commended employees for their dedication to serving vulnerable communities. She emphasised that the NDA occupies a strategic position in addressing poverty, unemployment and inequality by empowering communities and strengthening civil society organisations.

The Minister reminded staff of the 'Batho Pele' principle, which she said should inform their daily interactions and service delivery. Public service, she said, is ultimately about improving the lives of others and encouraged every employee to remain focused on the communities they serve.

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL



"Communities are looking to us for hope, for leadership and practical solutions that will improve their daily lives."

She encouraged employees to continue serving with compassion, integrity and excellence, noting that every contribution helps restore the dignity of marginalised communities and creates opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. She also called on staff to embrace the South African value of Ubuntu by demonstrating empathy, respect and collaboration in all their engagements.

The Department reaffirms support for the NDA

Acting Director-General Advocate Gugulethu Thimane reaffirmed the Department of Social Development's unwavering support for the NDA and highlighted the Agency's critical role in advancing South Africa's development agenda. She emphasised the importance of raising the NDA's profile, noting that despite its significant achievements, many South Africans remain unfamiliar with the Agency's mandate and impact. She encouraged the NDA to strengthen its communication efforts and consistently showcase the life-changing work being undertaken in communities across the country.

Both the Minister and the ADG committed to ensuring that the NDA governance structure is strengthened and they assured the Executives that the process to appoint the Board is already underway, even though they could not give timelines.

Strengthening Partnerships and showcasing impact

In her closing remarks, Minister Pule reaffirmed her commitment to championing the NDA and ensuring that its work receives the visibility and recognition it deserves. Together with the Acting Director-General, she committed to supporting the Agency by strengthening collaboration across the social development sector, facilitating strategic partnerships and spending more time on the ground visiting funded community projects to witness and promote their impact firsthand.



The Minister also challenged the NDA to become more deliberate and proactive in communicating its successes. She urged the Agency to tell the stories of the communities it serves, showcase the impact of its programmes beyond formal reports and parliamentary engagements, and position communication as a strategic tool for building public confidence, attracting new partnerships and mobilising additional resources. She emphasised that by telling its own story more effectively, the NDA can reinforce its position as a leading catalyst for sustainable community development and inspire greater support for its mission.