

MEDIA ADVISORY

Issued by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
Attention: Journalists and News Editors
Monday, 26 January 2026

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DEPUTY MINISTER LETSIKE CHAMPIONS THE RIGHT TO LEARN CAMPAIGN AT TSHWANE UNIVERSITIES

PRETORIA – The Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Mmapaseka Steve Letsike, will lead the Right to Learn Campaign at Sefako Makgatho University (SMU) and the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) on Tuesday, 27 January 2026. The Right to Learn Campaign seeks to address systemic challenges faced by students in institutions of higher learning.

Access to higher education for youth, particularly youth with disabilities in South Africa, is constitutionally guaranteed yet remains limited, with only about one-fifth of this demographic attending or completing tertiary education. Despite the Strategic Policy Framework on Disability for the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) system (2018) aiming to improve access and support. Students with disabilities continue to encounter significant structural, social, and digital barriers.

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ARE INVITED TO COVER THE EVENT:

- **Date:** Tuesday, 27 January 2026
- **Time:** 09h00-13:00
- **Venue:** Sefako Makgatho University & Tshwane University of Technology (Soshanguve South Campus)

Deputy Minister Letsike will engage directly with students, particularly those with disabilities and from marginalised backgrounds, on access, reasonable accommodation and inclusive learning environments. The engagement will further assess institutional capacity, including the availability of disability support services, trained personnel and inclusive infrastructure, in line with government efforts to improve access for students with disabilities in higher education.

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities continues to place strong emphasis on disability inclusion as a central pillar of social transformation. In line with the **White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

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Issued by: Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.

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