

MEDIA STATEMENT

Issued by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
Attention: Journalists and News Editors
Pretoria, 16 February 2024

DEPUTY MINISTER NOKUZOLA TOLASHE CALLS FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

PRETORIA: Deputy Minister of Women Youth and Persons with Disabilities Nokuzola Tolashe calls for Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities to End Gender-Based Violence. Through the mainstreaming of women's rights and advocacy which among others promote good governance regarding the rights and transformation of social and economic empowerment of women.

The Department of Women Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) has over the years been able to coordinate and facilitate interventions to support economic empowerment and economic ownership for women youth and persons with disabilities.

"Socio-economic challenges for Women Youth and Persons with Disabilities remain persistent to this day it is for the same reason that the department calls for 40% preferential procurement in the public sector" said Deputy Minister Tolashe.

Like many other developing countries, South Africa continues to wrestle with the challenges of unemployment and structural economic marginalisation; insufficient skills development, high levels of violence, teenage pregnancies and substance abuse continue to hinder progress in addressing the persistent triple challenges (Poverty, Unemployment and Inequality) of government.

“We call for the public procurement bill to be swiftly finalized to effectively implement set-asides in South Africa by fostering tangible opportunities for the advancement and inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities” Said Deputy Minister Tolashe.

It is important that Women, youth and persons with disabilities, must enjoy equal access to adequate financing to start and scale their businesses, increase their incomes, and contribute to the country’s economy. It is through the department’s strategic outputs, that the empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities continues to be at the centre of the National Economic Agenda.

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