

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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Issued by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities  
Attention: Journalists and News Editors  
Sunday, 12 April 2026

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### DEPUTY MINISTER LETSIKE ARRIVES IN NEW YORK FOR ECOSOC YOUTH FORUM 2026.

**Pretoria:** The Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Mmapaseka Steve Letsike, has arrived in New York to participate in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum 2026.

The Forum, convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Council, will take place from 14 to 16 April 2026 at the United Nations Headquarters. It serves as a global platform bringing together young leaders, policymakers, and development partners to discuss innovative, youth-led solutions to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

South Africa's involvement in platforms like the ECOSOC allows the country to strengthen youth voices and promote its policies on skills development, youth employment, and entrepreneurship support. This supports the government's National Youth Policy, which aims to mainstream and advocate for inclusive youth empowerment.

Deputy Minister Letsike's participation will affirm South Africa's commitment to advancing youth development and ensuring that the voices of young people are meaningfully represented in global decision-making processes.

### Details of the Engagement:

Event: ECOSOC Youth Forum 2026

Date: 14 – 16 April 2026

Venue: United Nations Headquarters, New York City

Members of the media are invited to follow proceedings and engage with updates from the Department's official communication platforms.

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