



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Women in water projects celebrated Women's Day discussing water issues

31 August 2017

Officials and local communities from 14 projects funded by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Eastern Cape (EC) met to celebrate the end of Women's Month festivities this week.

The celebrants gathered at DWS's KWT Regional Office on Thursday, 31 August 2017 to end the activities on a high note.

Some of the issues that were on the agenda revolved around on how to improve the delivery of water and sanitation services to the needy communities in their area.

DWS's Regional Head, Portia Makhanya, in her welcoming speech, she said praised women's efforts to work hard to improve the lives of their fellow citizens, describing them as warriors who shaped "our history, our art, our culture and values."

Makhanya added that water is necessary not only for drinking, but also for food production, preparation, care of domestic animals, personal hygiene, care of the sick, cleaning, washing, and waste disposal. "As woman, we are still fighting for our rights. It is hard but the good news is that we have come a long way. We are proud that 23 years of democracy have put our struggles on the agenda."

Makhanya praised the role played by Ruth First in the struggle for women liberation, adding that her efforts of introducing scholarships to help women empowerment benefited many ladies in South Africa including herself to study for courses such as the Master Degree in England.

Mr. Ngaoka Maphoto, DWS's Deputy Director on Gender and Disability Main Streaming said the purpose of holding the gathering which he described as a workshop, is to share the DWS supply chain awareness creation processes on how to register one's company on the database. He further said that women with disabilities must be afforded opportunities and be informed on how to qualify in obtaining business opportunities within the DWS.

Ms. Thandiswa Moni who is involved in the Adopt the River Project in Port Elizabeth indicated that the venture benefitted most women with lots of skills such as in waste management, occupational health and safety, identification of unknown weeds, water safety, snake handling, environmental education and life skills.

She added that their efforts has seen the health of Swartkops River improving, but that lack of funds to carry forward the ventured has stalled resulting in this river becoming bad.

Ms. Xoliswa Dyankala, who is also involved in Blocks Project, said water service delivery is a challenge and they are aware of water savings projects. They have requested Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality to assist them with sewerage water to craft blocks.

Ms. Amila Jolingana from Zameni Farming Project, indicated that the venture is not doing well because of severe drought including facing many water service delivery challenges due to the drought situation in the area of Bedford. The project used to produce beef cattle but now the situation of drought is delaying the progress.

Makhanya concluded by thanking DWS for the progress it has made with increasing the number of women in leadership positions such as from the Minister, Deputy Minister to the level of Regional offices in the department.

Lameki Jumba