



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Women gather to make inputs into the National water and Sanitation Master Plan**

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As part of its ongoing efforts to solicit inputs for the development of the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan, the Department of Water and Sanitation recently brought together women from all walks of life at Emperors Palace to make their inputs.

This is one of the department's efforts to recognize the role that should be played by women in the society is not just to draw water but they have a significant role to play.

This consultative workshop came at an opportune time when the country is celebrating Women's Month in honor of the class of 1956 women who defied all odds and marched to the Union Buildings in protest against oppressive laws imposed by the then apartheid government.

The consultative workshop was officiated over by Minister Nomvula Mokonyane, who emphasized that each person whether academically inclined or not, has an equal role to play towards the development of National Water and Sanitation Master Plan.

Minister Mokonyane said, "The development of this plan is every ones business, it must be driven by us South Africans so that our life experience helps the government of South Africa to ensure that we have reliable and credible supply of water."

Minister Mokonyane added that "the consultative workshop seeks to find key actions in the water sector and also identify roles and responsible to all of us in the water sector, in business, government, civil society, research institutions and every other stakeholder sitting here today".

The plan according to Minister Mokonyane should focus on ensuring that the unserved are served. "If a woman has wake up early in the morning having to collect water before preparing to go to work to school then we cannot say we are living in a democratic dispensation," said Minister Mokonyane.

Deputy Director General of Planning & Information, Ms Deborah Mochotlhi said in order for this plan to be a success there is a need to build a new cord of water suppliers who will be able to handover the baton and ensure that the plans being put in place benefit generations to come.

"The women gathered here today need to provide inputs into the plan that will ensure that their needs are served through the plan, which will take into consideration the very needs that the woman face and that in their efforts to get water their democracy and freedom is not hindered," she concluded.

**Mbalenhle Dlamini**