



INTERNET ARTICLE

Empowering Women in Water and Sanitation: A Step Towards a Brighter Future

05 September 2024

The Department of Water and Sanitation hosted its second appreciation workshop for women in water and sanitation forums on August 30, 2024, at the Protea Hotel in Klerksdorp. The event was part of the Women's Month celebrations and aimed to empower women from the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality with knowledge and skills in the water and sanitation sector.

The workshop was a testament to the department's commitment to recognizing and supporting the vital role women play in ensuring access to clean water and sanitation in their communities. The event brought together women from various forums, providing a platform for sharing experiences, knowledge, and best practices.

The presentations and discussions focused on critical aspects of water and sanitation, including water quality, sanitation, and the total water business. Ms Phuti Setati a Director from the Department's Transformation Management directorate delivered a thought-provoking presentation on water quality, emphasizing its impact on ecosystem, food, and energy security. She highlighted the importance of protecting water sources and ensuring that water is treated and distributed safely.

Ms Khido Keikabile offered words of encouragement, urging the women to continue making a positive impact in their communities. She emphasized the significance of their role in promoting water conservation, efficient use of water resources, and proper sanitation practices.

Ms Irene Molepo shared an inspiring story of two young girls who represented South Africa at a global event in Stockholm, showcasing their achievements in the water sector. The girls' participation in the department's school programs, including the Water Youth Prize, public speaking competition, and Aqua Enduro, had equipped them with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel on the international stage.

The department's school programs aim to educate and empower young people, especially girls, to take an active interest in water and sanitation. By providing a platform for learning and growth, the department is investing in the next generation of water leaders.

As the world grapples with the challenges of climate change, water scarcity, and sustainable development, the role of women in water and sanitation has never been more critical. Women are often the primary users and managers of water resources, and their involvement in decision-making processes is essential for ensuring that water is managed effectively and sustainably.

PONTSHO BODIBE AND MOREKENG PHALI