



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA ADVISORY

#### Department of Water and Sanitation closes Women's Month with a health walk

31 August 2016

The Department of Water and Sanitation in the Free State will celebrate this year's Women's Month by taking women on a Health Walk to Naval Hill in Bloemfontein as "an enactment of the Historic Women March of 1956" and as a symbolic gesture of a "long walk to freedom (Equality)". Taking a "long walk" to the Mandela statue is metaphorical of conquering life's adversity. The aim is to promote awareness of the efforts of the march/walk whilst at the same time promoting a healthy lifestyle.

The month of August was declared Women's Month by the democratically elected government of South Africa in 1994. Since then, the government, civil society organizations and members of the public have commemorated the various roles women continue to play in their own lives and in society.

The theme for the 2016 women's month was: "**60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WOMEN'S MONTH**": with the slogan: "**WOMEN UNITED IN MOVING SOUTH AFRICA FORWARD**". In addition to celebrating the women's struggle stalwarts, the month serves as an opportunity to reflect on South Africa's progress towards achieving women empowerment and gender equality in the context of the critical areas as highlighted in the 1994 Women's Charter for Effective Equality that was informed in many ways by the Women's Charter of 1954.

The event details are as follows:

Date : 03 September 2016

Venue : Bloemfontein DWS Offices to Naval Hill

Time : 08h00

Media is invited to attend.

**END**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

**For more information contact: the Departmental Spokesperson, Sputnik Ratau at 082 874 2942 or Ms Kido Thoabala, Communications Manager: 082 612 1796**

**For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water and Sanitation portal at: [www.dws.gov.za](http://www.dws.gov.za)**