



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Free State Women in Water to be honoured .

8 June 2015

The Department of Water and Sanitation in the Free State province has already begun in its efforts to mobilise and recognise women who are involved in water related projects, ahead of the national Women in Water Awards.

In line with the National Awards the Free State province is actively seeking women groups who have made their mark through various projects in the water sector. These are women who have been able to promote effective and efficient water resource management to ensure sustainable economic and social development.

The women are required to come up with projects in their communities that promote the improvement of water quality and quantity. An example of such a project involves a group of women who collect used water and re-use it for vegetable gardens. This particular projects supply vegetables to the poor, elderly and handicapped members of society. Projects in water harvesting and water conservation are encouraged.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) strives to promote and ensure that all South Africans have access to clean water. It aims to recognise and celebrate dedicated women, who through hard work are able to fight poverty, educate their respective communities about water related issues, and bring about development in their communities, both urban and rural. It also wants to mobilise and entrench the idea of women groups to come up with solutions to problems confronting them and their communities on a daily basis. Women are an integral part of society and their contribution can spark a brighter future for up-coming generations.

According to Kido Thoabala from the Department of Water and Sanitation in the Free State, another category, Sanitation, will be added this year to the existing four categories. She said the projects were divided and judged according to four categories: Adopt a River, Community Development, Water Conservation and Water Demand Management; plus Education and Awareness.

Thoabala said that the department is shortlisting its candidates for the province by holding workshops and competitions for the Free State where the winners will secure a spot in the nationals. The national Women in Water and Sanitation Awards will take place in the Eastern Cape in August. The previous National Awards were held in Rustenburg in 2014 where prizes of up to R100 000 were won.

Thabang Molai