



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **It's a wrap-The Gender, Water and Development conference comes to an end**

7 November 2014

*"Humbling and fruitful", those were the words used by Deputy Minister (DM) of Water and Sanitation Pamela Tshwete when she described the weeklong spectacle that was the Gender, Water and Development Conference. Delegates from across the country and abroad today wrapped up their engagements by reflecting on all the happenings and achievements from throughout the week.*

*DM Tshwete expressed her gratitude to all member states that sent their representatives and mostly the knowledge and experiences that they brought forward to help empower women of Africa and help curb and reduce water shortages across the continent. She went on to say that she hopes the countries will incorporate what they have acquired into their respective countries' plans and programmes, assuring them that South Africa will take into account most of the contributions shared during the conference in their water management systems and strategies.*

*Chairperson of the South African Water Research Commission Barbara Schreiner said she was highly impressed at the turn of events. "We were here because we all care about the challenges pertaining to water supply and distribution, and we all have some experience, knowledge, wisdom, to contribute to the general pool of knowledge; or some questions to ask, some learning to do," she said. Schreiner added that the four day journey brought all that knowledge and those questions together, whilst charting a different future journey for the poor women and men in Africa, and elsewhere.*

*Representatives from other countries were also very impressed with the proceedings of the conference. Most of them agreed that the conference was a great platform to bring together water warriors and ambassadors to deliberate on various water issues. Fredrick Kakembo, Deputy Vice Chancellor at Ndejje University in Uganda said the conference was very fulfilling and informative. He further added that he will be taking most of the ideas from the conference to his home country.*

*It was revealed during the conference that African women and girl children spent about 200 million hours each day collecting water, 40 billion hours per year. Such time could be better*



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*spent on education, on running businesses, growing food, on becoming active as economic, social and political players. Delegates agreed that including women in the decision making processes in the water sector would be the best way to ensure that they have a say on issues that concern them. It was ultimately agreed that collaboration between men and women is an ideal recipe to complete the eradication of water distress and poverty.*

*Maduvha Maseda*

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

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