



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Blouberg Women encouraged to play a role in saving water**

02 December 2016

On Friday, 2 December 2016, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), in conjunction with the Blouberg Local Municipality, held a community engagement as part of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's March against pass laws.

The community engagement aimed at educating women on the importance of water conservation, particularly during this time of drought was held at Ga-Raweshi Multi-Purpose Centre under the theme, "*Women and Drought*" and encouraged women to take heed of all the opportunities presented by government in order to participate in eradicating poverty.

Speaking at the engagement, Acting Deputy Director-General in the Department of Water and Sanitation, Ms Petunia Ramunenyiwa said, "women should look out for opportunities that our Department is providing to small businesses, as that will also help in creating more job opportunities for our youth."

One of these opportunities is the War on Leaks programme, which was announced by President Jacob Zuma in his State of the Nation Address in 2014 to curb the high volume of water losses. The water losses have cost the country to the tune of more than R7 billion resulting from leaking taps and illegal connections. Since its launch, the programme has trained 3 000 youths and is in the process of training a further 7 000 as part of its second phase.

The programme trains the youth to be artisans, plumbers and engineers so that they can also be at the forefront of water conservation by fixing leaking taps.

Concluding the events for the day, Regional Head Lesiba Tloubatla said: "It also becomes very important that we work together as the Department of Water and Sanitation and the Blouberg Local Municipality to make sure we assist communities who are hit hard by the drought." Moreover, access to information and encouraging water saving conservation, and adhering to water restrictions also become vitally important.

**Malope Matlou**