



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS empowers women through information sharing

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The Department of Water and Sanitation in partnership with the Water Research Commission and Power FM yesterday hosted the Women's Knowledge Café at the Power FM Studios in Houghton Estate.

The Women's Knowledge Café was held under the theme: "Health, Hygiene and Sanitation"

The theme was informed by the water and sanitation challenges that most communities in the country are facing such as little access to dignified sanitation services by people living on farms and in informal settlements, and poor maintenance of sanitation services which mostly affect women and children.

The programme was facilitated by Iman Rappetti from Power FM, joining her as panel members were Ms Petunia Ramunenyiwa from DWS, Ms Virginia Molose from the Water Research Commission, Ms Kholosa Magudu from World Wide Fund (WWF) and Ms Francina Rammabi from Shumani Sebenzani Development Initiatives.

The event brought together women from different organisations, NGOs and government departments to find solutions on issues of health, hygiene and sanitation. All the suggestions and recommendations made during the two hours live show have been noted and will be taken up by the department through its various programmes.

The department has a number of platforms on which information is shared with the people, these includes the community awareness campaigns and the Water and Sanitation forums that are being implemented across the country.

"These are the platforms for engagement with the communities and they are educating them about health and hygiene issues. They are platforms for new ideas that could be implemented to address the challenges that the country is facing," said Ms Ramunenyiwa.

The Department of Water and Sanitation is developing a National Water and Sanitation Master Plan to address the sanitation challenges in a more structured and systematic way, to ensure that poor people including women in South Africa have their dignity restored and their health improved, as well as to reduce the vulnerability of both women and children.

Lucky Makgarengi