



water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Women in Water Incubator programme key for emancipation of women

14 October 2016

Addressing more than 500 women in Kempton Park on Friday, 14 October 2016, Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, said economic emancipation of women is key for the development of South Africa.

She was speaking during the launch of Women in Water Incubator Programme launch which was attended by ambitious women from all walks of life, including anti-apartheid struggle icon, Ms Sophie De Bruyn.

The Women in Water Entrepreneurship Incubator is aimed at creating a supportive environment where existing and new women entrepreneurs, particularly those from previously disadvantaged groups, are able to start-up and develop their businesses from available opportunities in the water and sanitation sector.

In this programme, a total of 90 women from across the country will be trained and mentored for a period of three years by selected prominent companies in the science and engineering sector.

Minister Mokonyane said there is no better time than now for women to make their mark in fields that were dominated by men.

"This initiative is a clear indicator that women are well on their way to making a mark in an industry that has for years been dominated by men, that of water and sanitation provision," Minister Mokonyane said to a cheering audience.

, Minister Mokonyane said that this programme will also ensure that transformation in the procurement process of the Department put more emphasis on the previously disadvantaged groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities.

"The launch of this programme demonstrates the seriousness of the Department to transform the role of women in the sector and economy as a whole. When you liberate a woman, you liberate the nation," she emphasized.



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Furthermore, Minister Mokonyane said an investment in women is one of the most important investments we can make as a nation to address the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment

De Bruyn commended Minister Mokonyane for this programme and said gone are the days where men were viewed as being superior.

“It’s time that we as women claim our place in the economy and be equal partners and co-drivers,” she stressed.

Most women present at the glamorous occasion said that they were more than excited about the programme because it is going to address structural issues in society as it more importantly focuses on the previously disadvantaged.

Ms Janine Ristow of Ruliv NPC organization said this programme will go a long way in proving that women are more than capable to compete and excel in the science and engineering fields which are still dominated by men.

The programme forms part of government’s year long programme in the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the historical 1956 Women’s March, as well as the goals of the 10 Point Plan that focuses on growing and transforming the economy, creating jobs and attracting investment.

Maduvha Maseda