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Special Edition – August 2023

# A WORLD FILLED WITH HOPEFUL WOMEN



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& infrastructure

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Public Works and Infrastructure  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA







## CELEBRATING AND HONOURING WOMEN'S MONTH

Welcome to the second **Special Edition of WorxNews** for the year. August is a month to reflect on the great accomplishments of courageous women in the past who battled against gender, racism, and class oppression, and to commemorate them as individuals who built the groundwork for a gender equal society in South Africa.

In this **Special Edition of WorxNews**, we remember the 1956 march, consisting of approximately 20,000 women, to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to present a petition with over 100,000 signatures against the nation's pass laws, which required South Africans classified as "black" under The Population Registration Act to carry an internal passport, or pass. These laws were used to oversee migrant labourers during the apartheid era, maintain population segregation, and control urbanization.

National Women's Day and Women's Month exists to honour the women who bravely fought for our freedom as well as to recognize the advancements made in the modern day by women of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and religions in spite of obstacles encountered.

DPWI WOMEN! Acknowledge your accomplishments with pride and have faith in your personal power! We have the opportunity to honour women's numerous achievements and significant contributions to South African society in August. You have to always feel proud of your background, identity, and accomplishments. Throughout this copy, you will get to read some articles focusing on the emancipation of women, the importance of women in society and the empowerment of women. In addition to that, various ladies from the DPWI's security and cleaning services were also profiled where they were asked to shed light on what Women's Day means to them.

Thank you to the ladies from the security and cleaning services for sharing their thoughts on what Women's Day means to them. A major thank you goes out to the regional office organisers of the various Women's Day celebrations that took place around the country. Finally, we want to thank Ms Maanea Maselesele, Ms Andile Xulu, Ms Hope Motitimi, Ms Ruwayda Baulackey, Mr Thabiso Kutu and Mr Siphamandla Nyembe for their contributions to this **Special Edition of WorxNews**.

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# Celebrating women in DPWI

**By: Siphamandla Nyembe**

“I believe that the emancipation of a woman is an inside job. You need to practice the act of liberating yourself.” – Nyeleti Makhubele.

The commemoration of Women's month was celebrated by the women staff within the Department of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 at Batter Boys Village – Pretoria North.

The event was centered on accelerating socio-economic opportunities for women's empowerment. It was fitting for the Department's Acting Director-General (ADG), Nyeleti Makhubele, to be present and open proceedings at the event since she is a woman herself.

“Many women struggle with the concept of beauty, because we believe that beauty comes from outside and with the compliments from others. In fact, beauty should be something you feel inside of you; that's when it radiates,” said Ms Makhubele. She continued to speak about the four agreements while uplifting other ladies.

She mentioned that each lady should make and abide by these pledges to herself, which are as follows:

1. You must be impeccable with your word. Mean what you say and say what you mean but also be mindful of what you say to people because words can be hurtful.
2. Don't take anything personally. What I say has absolutely nothing to do with you but everything to do with what's in my heart and my state of mind.
3. Don't make assumptions. It is better to ask a question and look foolish for a short moment than to keep quiet and remain foolish for the rest of your life.
4. Always do your best. “If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl but whatever you do, keep moving.”

Ms Makhubele additionally encouraged women to keep one another responsible to the pledges they made to themselves, as doing so will foster a sense of togetherness among them. This unity is required among women in order to eliminate the daily hardships they experience in society. This solidarity was demonstrated by the women who marched to the Union Buildings in 1956, and it is the same unity that the DPWI ladies have been asked to demonstrate in implementing the "Future is Female" concept.

Thandeka Zulu, one of the attendees, said it meant a lot to her to be recognized by the DPWI in this way. “We need to learn from our sisters and mothers who have gone before us on this journey.” This Women's Day gathering gave us the opportunity to learn from them because they know more than we do,” Thandeka added.





# KIMBERLEY REGIONAL OFFICE SPARKLING IN PINK!

**By Ruwayda Baulackey**

Pink represent beautiful emotions and qualities such as compassion, passion and attraction. Colour Pink is also used to communicate messages about women and their role in society for centuries.

Excitement was palpable on 25 August 2023, when ladies from the Kimberley Regional Office enjoyed Women's Day Celebration. A number of speakers attended the event and topics varied from tourism to entrepreneurship, under the theme **'women have the power to change their own lives for the better'**

Ms Pinky Magelanyane from the Tourism Industry was one of the speakers. She advised ladies to consider starting a small business in Tourism because the Northern Cape Province has abundant opportunities in this industry. She made examples of an Airbnb or a guesthouse which has huge potential. "Start small and grow with time and work hard because the possibilities are endless", she said Ms Winnie Jood, one of our departmental power house women offered words of encouragement and said that we are the masters of our own happiness as women. She reminded ladies that they must always have faith in the Almighty and believe that without the Lord, our efforts will have no meaning or substance.

Ms Lesego Moitseng who was one of the speakers at the event is an interior designer by profession with a creative mind. She said that she is available for those ladies who have been inspired by a previous speaker, to open new guest houses and Airbnb. "It does not have to cost a fortune to live in a beautiful space, what you need is a budget as a starting point and work from there", she emphasized. She further elaborated that women must put faith in what they want to achieve. "Put energy and encouragement, love in the mix and you will have a winning recipe for success", she added.

The Regional Manager (RM), Ms Ruwayda Baulackey, said that achieving in life is possible with hard work, dedication and perseverance. Women tend to imprison themselves with so many false beliefs thereby stifling their own growth. It is up to us to make everyday a special day. The key message from the RM to the ladies was to 'UNBOX' yourself.



## "Be bold, Not a bully."

**By Maanea Maselesele**



The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Programme Manager at the Polokwane Region Ms Phethani Muvhali, shared many words of wisdom with fellow women colleagues during the Region Women's Month celebration event held at Park Inn by Radisson Polokwane, in Limpopo on 31 August 2023.

Ms Muvhali used her speech to encourage women to study further and develop themselves for career growth. She also implored the DPWI officials to uphold and treat fellow colleagues with respect. "Be bold but don't be a bully," she stated.

# “SIYANITHANDA FUTHI SIYANIHLONIPHA – WE VALUE AND RESPECT YOU”

By Thabiso Kutu

The Durban Regional Office commemorated Women's Month at the Southern Sun Elangeni, on 25 August 2023. Regional Manager (RM) Nkosi Vilakazi outlined the importance of celebrating Women in the context of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI), which is a technical department.

He said that it was a great privilege and honour to have women working for DPWI because of their important role in ensuring that the department fulfils its mandate. RM Vilakazi further reminded women employees that their contributions to service delivery does not go unnoticed. “Siyanithanda futhi siyanihlonipha” (we value and respect you”) he stated.

It was not only a joyful event, it was also 'punctuated' by insightful presentations packaged to educate, motivate, and inspire women from the Department. To make the day more special for the ladies, there were physiotherapists, dermatologists, gynaecologists and a financial advisor was also part of the event to empower women on how to handle their hard earned cash wisely. During the event, Ms Nompumelelo Mncwabe, Regional Manager from Transnet, gave a motivational speech as a way of encouraging women on how to stay afloat in this ever changing world.



# MTHATHA REGIONAL OFFICE HOSTS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR

By Siphamandla Nyembe

The 1st of September signals the beginning of Heritage Month in South Africa. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure's (DPWI) Mthatha Regional Office has maintained the spirit of celebrating South African women into the new month, as they held a Women Empowerment Seminar at Mayfair Casino in Mthatha. The purpose of the event was to empower and celebrate the ladies from Mthatha Regional Office.

A representative from one of the financial services companies encouraged the ladies by speaking on matters such as financial management and the various insurance policies available to them.

The Department's Shumani Matsha from Gender Unit reminded her fellow colleagues about sexual harassment policy, its purpose and how it protects employees in the workplace.

Zama Khumalo from the Durban Regional Office rounded off the event as the keynote speaker. The topic of her speech was “Claim Your Space” and she encouraged colleagues to claim their space without fear.





# SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN IN DPWI



**Beverley Alben**

Cleaning Services (Durban Regional Office)

*"Woman, you are the energy we all need, because without you nothing is complete in this world. When women are empowered, seen and heard - everything changes. When women are taken care of, everyone is taken care of and that's the world we all want to be part of. Women's history is everyone's history. This is an opportunity to celebrate contributions women have made. It's a great time to stop and reflect in their progress and also to the women who are still doing it today. I believe this also gives the little girls, the vision to say "HEY" I can do this, those before me have paved the way.*

*Some people will throw stones at you. Don't throw the stones back, collect them and build an empire. Women who have achieved something great had to overcome much adversity. I believe women are like air, they rise above any situation. Never quit, you can accomplish anything that you dream.*

*To all the beautiful women out there, God bless you and give you all the desires of your heart. Have a great and fabulous women's month."*



**Pumza Primrose Mpetshwa**

Cleaning Services (Durban Regional Office)

*"Umzabalazo wamanina owawubanjwe ngonyaka ka-1956, awuzange uphumelele kuba amalungelo wamanina asanyhashwa. Asikhululekanga njengoko besithi "sili lizwe elikhululekileyo". Ukwenza umzekelo, emisebenzini, abafazi abafumani zikhundla eziphezulu. Malunga nemidlalo, ayisokuze ibe sengqiqweni ukuba kutheni ibhola ekhatywayo yabasetyhini bevuzwa imali encinci kunebhola ekhatywayo yamadoda kodwa badlala into enye. Into ebonakalisa ukuba abasetyhini basekwincinezelo, uluntu esiphila nalo, alubavumeli abantu basetyhini ukuba bafake isandla nje ngamadoda. SingooMama sikholelwa ukuba amadoda nabasetyhini kufuneka baphathwe ngokulinganayo. Abasetyhini bayadlwengulwa mihla le, abantwana bayaxhatshazwa, alukho uxolo eMzantsi-Afrika. Abantu basetyhini namadoda mabanikwe ithuba kunye nempatho efanayo. Abantu basetyhini mabaqondwe kwaye banikwe ithuba elifanayo kwinto efunyanwa neyenziwa ngamadoda.*

*(The struggle of the women who were marching in 1956 has not succeeded, because the rights of women are still violated. We are not free as they say "we are a free country". For example, in the workplace, women are not promoted to higher positions. Also in terms of sports it will never make sense why women who play football, earn less than men in the same sport, meaning women are still oppressed. The society we live in does not allow women to contribute as much as men do. I believe men and women must be treated equally. Women are raped every day, children are being abused, and there is no peace in this world. I don't know what can be done so that women can be recognised and be given the same opportunity men receive in everything they do)."*



**Annie De Wee**

Security Management (Bloemfontein Regional Office)

*Ms De Wee, a former EPWP participant says she welcomed a challenging task by being in a unit where she works with men only because it comes with responsibilities. She adds that on Women's Month she celebrates every woman who played a role in ensuring the freedom of choice for women.*

*"I celebrate myself, my mother, my sister, my aunt, my grandmother –for all the struggles we have gone through, just to be free."*



### **Nthonne Emily Rakoti**

Cleaning Services (Bloemfontein Regional Office)

*"I'm working for DPWI since 2012 and I'm the only woman who works as a Groundsman (groundskeeper) surrounded by males. At first everything was challenging to me but now I'm doing my work with a smile. As a woman I thought certain jobs were only for men but I was wrong because now I know how to use different kinds of hand machines that we have at the nursery and I also have a passion for my work. This Women's Month I would like to advise young and middle aged women to spot opportunities and work around nature. Every job a man can do, a woman can do it too. As we celebrate this month, I would like to also remind everyone that South Africa works because of Public Works."*



### **Lina Raphala**

Cleaning Services (Mokopane Magistrate Court under Polokwane Regional Office)

*"My Women's Month started very well. We had an event organised at work where the MC was a woman and the preacher was a woman too. I was proud to witness women running things smoothly. In the past, some used to say when you leave things in women's hands, they don't succeed but women continue to prove that they make things happen."*



### **Tshifularo Ramavhale**

Security Management (Polokwane Regional Office)

*"Wathint'abafazi, wathint'imbokodo. Being a woman on Women's Month reminds me that we are the backbone of our nation. This nation is nothing without us. Strong women don't have an attitude, we have standards. Viva Women's Month Viva."*



### **Happy Mabada**

Cleaning Services Supervisor (Johannesburg Regional Office)

*"Women's Day means a lot to me. The celebration of this day gives us a way to feel good about ourselves as women. It is a day where women are recognized for their achievements."*

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#WomensMonth2023 #WomensDay2023







### **Bontletse Sebati**

Security Management (Johannesburg Regional Office)

"I celebrate the resilience and strength of South African women and the contribution they have made to society and our country. Women's Day is also a powerful day for equal rights."

**Accelerating Socio-Economic Opportunities for Women's Empowerment**

#WomensMonth2023 #WomensDay2023



### **Kerileng Phetlhu**

Security Management (Kimberley Regional Office)

*"I would like to wish all wonderful women in South Africa a happy Women's Month. Women's Month is a time to show women in our lives how much we love, care for and appreciate them. The world is moving towards gender balance and this means that as women we need to learn to stand up for ourselves. A woman withstands challenges/difficulties."*



### **Maria Boo**

Cleaning Services (Kimberley Regional Office)

"Women's Day is a big day for all women. The women who fought years ago for our liberation, fought so that we know what we stand for, in our homes and at work, and most importantly what we represent for our future generations. We have to respect one another. As women, we must stay united."



### **Lerato Cidraas**

Cleaning Services (Kimberley Regional Office)

"Women's Day means a lot to us as women because the women who marched to the Union Buildings in 1956 paved a way for us to enjoy better opportunities as women."



### **Thatoyaona Segwai**

Cleaning Services (Kimberley Regional Office)

"I celebrate women's month because I am a woman. I stand tall. I am a pillar of strength. The world needs me more than anything."



## Nomawethu Ralarala

Cleaning Services (Ngqeleni Magistrates Court under Mthatha Regional Office)

*“Ndathunyelwa ngaphantsi kwesebe lezobulungiswa eNgqeleni, eMampondweni. Ndirhalela ke ukwanda ngalenyanga yethu yoMama. Apha kwelisebe, zikhona i-ofisi eziqukethe imiqulu yenkcukacha enobuzaza ezifana nezabatshutshisi (NPA). Ngamanye amaxesha, njengomntu ococa kwezi-ofisi, ndiye ndizive ngokungathi ndijongelwa phantsi.*

*Umzekelo, ngamanye amaxesha, amalungu ezotshutshiso, andibuze ngamadokethi amatyala aphantwayo ndibe ndingangeni-ndawo emadokethini. Xandibuzwa imibuzo enjalo, ndiye ndizive ndijongeleka phantsi. Okwesibini, kunezindlu zangasese kwaye ngamanye amaxesha abantu abagqiba ukuzisebenzisa bashiya bengazicocanga. Ngenye imini ndakhe ndabizwa lilungu lesebe lezobulungiswa, wandicela ndivule isihlalo se-toilet ngoba esithi woyika kubekanti kukhona ubuxelegu obusele ngaphakathi. Ndaziva ndijongeleke phantsi kakhulu. Ngamanye amaxesha xasihambisa i-toilet papers, ufumanise ukuba awekho amagosa athile kwi-ofisi zabo, into ekhokela ekubeni singakwazi ukungena. Xa sele libuya eliGosa, lithi gqi selikukhwaza ezipasejini apho kukhona nabantu basekuhlaleni. Kwimeko ezinjalo, ndiye ndizive ndinentloni, nokuzithemba kwehle, ndizobone ndiyi-cleaner nyhani. (I was deployed under the Department of Justice in Ngqeleni, eMampondweni. I would like to elaborate about this month, our month as Women. Here at the Department of Justice, there are sensitive offices like NPA (National Prosecuting Authority) offices.*

*Sometimes as a cleaner, I feel undermined. Sometimes NPA members ask me about the whereabouts of dockets that I know nothing about. Once I get asked that question, I feel undermined. Secondly, there are toilets we all use. Sometimes users don't clean-up after themselves.*

*I was once called by the Department of Justice officials to come and open/lift the toilet seat for her because she was afraid the previous user didn't flush. I felt undermined. Sometimes when we deliver toilet paper to offices, sometimes officials are not in their offices and we pass. When they come back, they scream our names asking for toilet paper in passages, where there are members of the public. You will feel embarrassed and your confidence reduced and feel like a real cleaner.”*



## Noloyiso Potye

Security Management (Mthatha Regional Office)

*“Lo uthethayo nguNoloyiso Potye. Ndisebenza njengoNogada eMthatha Regional office. Kulenyanga yoMama, thina singoMama safumana inkululeko ngoba kudala kwakungavumelekanga ukusebenza njengoNogada xa ungumntu onguMama (My name is Noloyiso Potye, in the Mthatha Regional office. I work as a Security Guard/Officer. Women's month symbolises freedom because in the olden days, women were not allowed to work as Security Guards).”*

# Accelerating Socio-Economic Opportunities for Women's Empowerment

#WomensMonth2023 #WomensDay2023







## Kedibone Mndawe

Cleaning Services (Head Office)

“Dumelang. Lebitso laka ke Kedibone Mndawe. I was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, on the day that is now celebrated as Women's Day. Celebrating Women's Month is important to me, because we are celebrating the 'mbokodos' of the world, the pillars of the households and of the nation. We are celebrating strong women, and partners who hold the fort in the household.

I love this month because it shows how capable we are, shows our inner and outer beauty and verifies that women can do anything. Women's Month to me is a big deal because women are now being recognized in construction, projects that were previously thought to be for men only.

Women these days hold high positions regardless of the stereotype that 'a woman's place is at home'. We are now breaking boundaries and doing everything men can do. Women are showing that they are capable every single day.”



**Accelerating Socio-Economic Opportunities for Women's Empowerment**

#WomensMonth2023 #WomensDay2023



## Mpho Mokaila

Security Management (Mmabatho Regional Office)

“I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our mothers and all imbokodo (an isiZulu word that means 'rock') a happy Women's Month.

I applaud women because they are pillars of strength and heroes. They love unconditionally and strive to nurture and nourish.”



## Sharifa Rosenberg

Cleaning Services (Mmabatho Regional Office)

“As women in the 21st century we are very proud and feel empowered by the women who marched in 1956 against the unjust pass laws because since the dawn of democracy, a lot of women in South Africa have not only occupied high positions in Government and in the Private sector but have also been empowered in the area of business.

It is every woman's right to celebrate Women's Month with pride and dignity. Happy Women's Month to all the women in Mzantsi (a word taken from a Xhosa name for South Africa – Mzantsi Afrika).”

**WOMEN'S  
MONTH  
2023**



**Accelerating Socio-Economic  
Opportunities for Women's  
Empowerment**

*#WomensMonth2023 #WomensDay2023*