



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA STATEMENT

Commitment of women advancement has been at the forefront within the DWS

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has made strides towards an enabling environment for women empowerment and gender equality. Various programmes and workshops were carried out recently to address gender disparities in the workplace within the DWS.

DWS initiated the Accelerated Development Programme for middle managers with intent of growing and nurturing a pool of potential managers from within the Department. The programme has ensured that women managers are work-ready to be appointed to senior positions when the opportunities arise.

The programme also served to fast-track the development of women at middle management and lower levels. Upon successful completion of the programme, participating women received certificates from reputable academic institutions in recognition.

DWS had few women and could not meet the 50% target at senior management levels; but since the launch of the Accelerated Development Programme, a total of 25 women have been appointed as Senior Managers in DWS.

The Women in Water Awards was another vehicle the Department has used to recognise the good work and the vital role women have played in the water sector. The awards, in the form of funds intended for project support, were given to women who led such water projects. The Women in Water Awards encouraged perseverance for women working in difficult conditions in the water sector, and also encouraged more women to venture into this male dominated environment.

With another woman Minister at the helm, the DWS stands a good chance of further fostering women development across the water and sanitation sector.

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