EVENT: International Women’s Day
Women, Water and Human Rights
VENUE: Webinar
THEME: “Choose to Challenge”

Presented by: Ms Nchedi Sophia Maphokga-Moripe
Chief Director: Global Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships
Department of Water and Sanitation
South Africa.

Date: 8th March, 15:00h-16:30h CET
INTRODUCTION
South African Perspective

Moderator, Amanda Loefen

• Roquel Dodge- Former Attorney General, Brazil
• Mekal Krishnan- Mckinsey Global Institute
• Maria- Teresa Guitierrez- ILO

• Mariet Verhoef-Cohen President, Women for Water partnership.
• Ladies and Gentlemen

Madam Moderator, let me first acknowledge the coincidence on the Themes today, In his state of the nation address, President Cyril Ramaphosa declared 2021 to be the year of Charlotte Maxeke under the theme: Promoting Human Rights in the Age of COVID-19”.

Mme Charlotte Maxeke is known as the “Mother of Black Freedom in South Africa, she made a valuable contribution at a time when it was exceptionally hard for women to rise to the fore in liberation politics. She was the first black woman to have a degree and graduate in Bachelor of Science when a women’s place was still in the kitchen. Today we are still talking the role of Women, decades after these brave Women paved way for Women in leadership in the Science and Technical fields.
The Role of Women in Water in South Africa, and how important it has been to include women in Decision-Making

Has it really been IMPORTANT?

- Madam Moderator Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to say on behalf of my Country South Africa YES, it has been important.

  Is the importance seen or implemented?

- YES we can see it in the water sector and it is implemented throughout Government and its Entities.
- Statistics in South Africa shows 50% and more at Executive and Management levels of our Entities.

How does this impact on Women on the Ground

- Vertically (Power and Empowerment) and
- Horizontally (Extend of participation by Women at All Levels)
Why are we still deliberating on the Role of Women in the Water Sector in this Era? (Responses by Presenter)

- What is the Problem?
- Who must clarify the role of Women in the Water Sector?
- Who is responsible for making it happen?
- Do we have appropriate Policies at National and local Levels?
- Do we have Systems in Place to support and monitor implementation of such Policies?
- Do we have Political Will to Ensure implementation?
- Do we Have Women Who qualify to fit in those Roles?
What is Missing?

✓ Is it Women’s Power to Lead or Women’s Empowerment?

• Madam I want to submit that statistics will confirm, in particular in the South African Scenario that we do not lack Women in Positions of Power and that they have the Power they need to lead the Sector.

✓ Do we have the strategy to cascade/implement at all levels?

Madam Moderator, this is where the link seem to be missing in my own view, and we need to check who should do this and how?, and this is the level were women at lower positions and women on the ground should feel the impact and see the change brought by the power we have.
Women at Political Positions in the water Sector South Africa.

- Madam Moderator,
- It might be important to Mention that:
  - The Minister of Human settlements, water and Sanitation is a Woman, H.E Lindiwe Sisulu
  - The Deputy Minister Human Settlements, is a Woman H.E Pamela Tshwete
  - The Chairperson of the Water and Sanitation Portfolio Committee in Parliament is a Woman, madam Rosina Semenya.

This is just to confirm that the Political will is there and the Power of Women in South African water Sector cannot be doubted.
## Representation of Women in the South African Water Boards, as the Implementing Entities of the Sector

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<th>Name of Water Board</th>
<th>Total Board Members</th>
<th>Women representation</th>
<th>Men representation</th>
<th>Total Executive Man</th>
<th>Women representation</th>
<th>Men representation</th>
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<td><strong>Total Women Reps</strong></td>
<td><strong>Boards</strong></td>
<td><strong>49%</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Executives</strong></td>
<td><strong>44%</strong></td>
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The key Objectives in the Policies and Legislation of Water and Sanitation Sector Sectors in South Africa.

Key Deliverables of Water & Sanitation Sectors in RSA in line with Policy & Legislative Mandate

If the following are the Objectives, what else is required?

1. Using water for promoting socio-economic developmental agenda.
2. Reducing inequality through access to water and job creation.
3. Leveraging additional investments for infrastructure development.
4. Enabling rural communities to use water for rural livelihoods.
5. Promoting greater citizen participation in decision making.
6. Allowing for innovation and knowledge generation.
Women in the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic

WASH is said to be the first line of defense in the absence of a vaccine.

Women carry most responsibility for hygiene.

- In the households
- In the health frontline as nurses
- Health services including the unpaid care work
- Carry water for households in rural communities
- Participate in change management, information, and counselling
- Women should inform policy and decision-making based on lessons of the pandemic.
Conclusion

- Madam moderator

- I leave it to all the participants, to go back and answer some of the critical questions that I posed to myself, using their own experiences and situations, so that in 2022, we report even more progress.
Thank You, Ke a leboga, Dankie, Ngiyabonga, !