



# CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND ICT

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

**To : All Editors and Journalists**

**Date : 12 September 2023**

### ***Human Settlements Commemorates Public Service Women in Management Week***

The Department of Human Settlements as part of the Public Service Women Management Week converged a meeting with women managers to reflect on various issues affecting them in the workplace. The meeting also seeks to promote women empowerment and gender equality within the public service and intends to inspire women in senior management positions to become resilient and effective leaders.

The Public Service Women Management Week is hosted annually during the last week of August and aims to assess progress made by Government Departments in their implementation of the Head of Department's eight (8) Principles Action Plan for Promoting Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in the Public Service.

Head of Department and Chairperson of the session, Ms Kgomotso Mahlobo in her address encouraged women to take such sessions very serious and not only treat them as a form of ticking the box. According to the HOD, the session forms an integral part in the emancipation of women, therefore it is vital for women management to prioritize the session and make valuable inputs that would have positive impact in the empowerment of women.

HOD also highlighted that the Public Service Women Management provides space to review progress made in the empowerment of women and achievement of gender equality. The Department of Human Settlements is currently above average of the required 50% equity representation for women at SMS level.

"It is through our combined efforts as women that we are able to address the issue of women representation at Senior Management level and can achieve the gender transformation in our workplace," said Mahlobo.

The session further allowed the women to reflect and understand some of the barriers which hinders their success in the workplace and also gave platform to set their goals and priorities clearly. Women are encouraged to be more cautious and make self-respect as their number one priority as this will contribute towards making the workplace more conducive and productive.

Other topics covered during the session include office accommodation that favours women, men and people with disabilities, policies that accommodate the needs for parents with small children, especially when they have to travel for work purposes, women's empowerment forum , motivational sessions for women that will assist them to open up and be assisted by referring them for professional help, conduct the Health and Wellness Survey that addresses women's needs, review adverts so that they favour women as this will assist in ensuring the departmental equity targets 50% at SMS level.

In her concluding remarks HOD applauded the women who dedicated their time to attend the meeting and for making valuable inputs as this will help to realise the bigger goal which is to ensure that women empowerment in the workplace is realised. HOD also encouraged the women to be united and work together as this will help them to identify gaps and come up with solutions how to tackle them together.

**Ends.**