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## Department gears for 50% women representation

Sequel to advice from the Department of Public Service and Administration that Heads of Departments should implement and institutionalise the Annual Public Service Women Managers Week, the Department's women managers converged at the Ngaka Modiri Molema Boardroom on 23 August to interrogate and review the Cabinet target of 50% women representation in senior management.

The HOD's 8 principles addressing the theme 'Promoting Women's Advancement and Gender Equality in respective departments' cover: Transformation for non-sexism; Establishing a policy environment; Meeting equity targets; Creating an enabling environment; Gender Mainstreaming; Empowerment; Providing adequate resources; Accountability; Monitoring and Evaluation.

The Chief Director Corporate Services Mmabatho Mfikwe, related to the attendees about the most significant role women managers are destined to play in the general empowerment of the society that was once crippled by the effects of oppression.

“Women managers are the treasure-chest of our economic development and must explore all avenues and get rid of the impediments derailing our meeting the Cabinet 50% women representation at all levels of SMS including the persons with disabilities,” said Mfikwe.

Elaborating on the thematic influence and the legislative significance of the Cabinet target, Miss Gwen Maeko mentioned that a new chapter in the maturing of our democracy has dawned. This requires women of substance to pick up the spears and forge ahead the battles waged by the gallant women leaders of 1956 and their predecessors.

Not being discouraged by the unsatisfactory attendance of women managers, Maeko provided the synopsis of the HOD's 8 principles and emphasised that ... “Our struggle for the eradication of poverty, for the restoration of human rights and dignity continues to gather momentum. The continuation of this, calls for active and undivided loyalty to the good cause by women managers.” Maeko enthused the managers.

The feeling that the forum of this nature was absolutely necessary and had to reconvene, and that at some stage, male counterparts should be taken on board, prevailed. The Special Program Directorate was charged to make sure another meeting is called and that managers are invited accordingly.