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**Rural, Environment and Agricultural  
Development**  
North West Provincial Government  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**09 AUGUST 2017**

### **MEC MANKETSI TLHAPÉ SUPPORTS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

**Mahikeng:** The MEC for the North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development Manketsi Tlhape, as part of August Women's Month, would like to extend her acknowledgement to all women who are doing outstanding job in the agricultural, rural development and environment sectors in Bokone Bophirima province.

This month dates back to when thousands of women of all races, class and religious persuasions marched to the Union Buildings in protest against the extension of Pass Laws in 1956. The Government has since declared August, Women's Month, and 9 August is commemorated as Women's Day. The 2017 theme "***The Year of OR Tambo: Women United in Moving South Africa Forward.***"

MEC Tlhape says the role played by women in all sectors remain critical in changing the face of economy. "We want to acknowledge the contribution of women importantly young women and women with disabilities who are entrepreneurs or are employed in operational activities of the Agricultural and Environment sector. As a Department we are committed to their empowerment and we will always encourage them to apply for agricultural support. Women empowerment is everyone's business and needs the support of government, business, labour and civil society", she said.

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She further said fighting the triple challenges remain key in the provincial fifth administration. "The promotion of gender equality is central to our efforts to combat poverty and stimulate sustainable development, she emphasized.

"This month will also see us creating platforms to rejuvenate society's efforts towards women's social and economic emancipation through our policies,we are ensuring full participation of women in the economy and driving towards an inclusive economy. Let us all work to remove the barriers which prevent women from entering and thriving in the labour market," MEC said Manketsi Tlhape.

The Department, as part of ensuring that it contributes to the empowerment of women will during the month of August host the Provincial Female Farmer Entrepreneur Awards and Economic Transformation Summit for Women.

**## ends ##**

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