

MEC Makamu celebrates with CoGHSTA women contractors

Traditionally, the Construction Industry has been largely dominated by men and often perceived to be an Industry that is not ideally for women. Women today are seen infiltrating the industry in great numbers and are playing a pivotal role in the development of infrastructure in general.

As part of commemorating Women's Month, the Limpopo Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) hosted a Gala Dinner on the 14th of August 2019 at Fusion Boutique Hotel in Polokwane. The event was attended by women, young and old, experienced and inexperienced in the Construction Industry.

The event which is the first of its kind afforded women contractors an opportunity to express their views, share best practices, challenges and also interact with the MEC. Speaking during the Gala Dinner, the MEC for the Department echoed that "The Department is ready and willing to assist Female Contractors. I urge all women who are in this field, not to look down upon another but, always try to uplift one another". MEC Makamu said.

MEC Makamu went further to say he will not rest until all the planned projects are implemented and women should also benefit. He applauded women for shaping the Construction Industry with tremendous dedication and energy in the Province.

He also highlighted the fact that the Department is serious about its core business and it will not tolerate corruption. "There is no room for corruption in the Department. I do not want a situation where public servants behave like tollgates. Public Servants must work and do not expect kickbacks or bribes from contractors and service providers". He said

Ms Mantombi Maphanzela of Abigail Developers shared some of the best practices with the contractors. "I encourage all women to put your all into it. The Construction Industry is vast and complicated at the same time but you need to prioritize and remember there is no ownership without responsibility. If you do not like getting your hands dirty then this Industry is not for you. As a Contractor you must avoid a situation where you run projects remotely, you must go on site and be hands on. If it means you must knock off at one o'clock in the morning, then you must do that. Do not take short cuts. For us to grow we must join forces, support and empower each other". She said.

The Gala Dinner ended in a jubilee mood of networking and dancing amongst Women Contractors in celebration of Women's Month.

