

Women participation at the forefront of social cohesion

Women emancipation, economic opportunities and women's health were just some of the few societal challenges that women in the John Taolo Gaetsewe district felt needed to be addressed. This happened at the launching of the Women's Forum at the Moffat Misson on the 25th May 2016. The Executive Mayor, Clr. Sofia Mosikatsi launched the forum with the aim of uniting all women in the district.

The Executive Mayor said "the same developmental opportunities that are afforded to men are also made available to women and we have to go out to seek and grab those (opportunities) available in the various spheres of life, be it among others academic, political, business or in any other field one may wish to venture into. "We must desist from confining ourselves to those areas that were previously stereotyped as the exclusive domain for females such as catering and claim our stake in bigger projects such as construction, security and farming", continued the Executive Mayor. The Mayor also stressed that complaining while you not taking any decisive step to improve one's condition will not take women anywhere. "We must be active participants in our democracy and contribute towards the growth of the economy and subsequently to that of the entire nation".

The objectives therefore is to ensure establishment of an organised women structure in the district that will meet monthly/quarterly and their key tasks are to coordinate and implement women's programmes in the district, advocate for implementation of women's programme in the district by working closely with the special programme office in the municipality.

Invited presenters included representatives from department of Water & Sanitation, SEDA, Anglo American, SAWEN and Kgalagadi Women Forum, the John Taolo Gaetsewe district municipality Supply Chain unit.

The presentations focused on various programmes offered by the respective organizations and how women can use them to develop themselves.

The following terms of reference were agreed upon:

Representatives should be from different backgrounds

- Business
- Political parties
- Non –governmental organizations
- Faith based organization
- Women with disabilities and young women
- Geographical representation (e.g. each municipality to have representation)

The Executive Mayor concluded by saying that she requires full participation and cooperation to take the district forward.



The newly elected forum members **L-R** Ms. Agnes Sibi, Ms. Ditlhagiso Tobosi, Ms. Keseledile Lekgetho, Ms. Tshanaki Barakanye, Ms. Duduetsang Mokomele, Ms. Mpho Lekgetho, **back:** Ms. Thobeka Mthintelwa, Ms. Jane Maroane.

Issued by **JTGD Communications**