



WOMEN'S MONTH 2020

Phenomenal Woman Profile



Keeping the EWSETA's Vision, Mandate and Values at the Forefront - Through Knowledge and Wisdom

In collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology, the EWSETA remains committed to strengthening the skills pipelines in our designated sectors so that South Africans can improve their livelihoods and help to grow the economy as we step firmly into the 4th Industrial Revolution.

This will be achieved through a competent and capable Accounting Authority (board). A competent and capable board is the key to the fulfilment of the mandate of the EWSETA that is to build and manage the skills development and training needs of the energy and water sectors through strategic skills planning within the context of the National Skills Development Strategy.

EWSETA is pleased to have Dr Nandi Malumbazo as board member effective 1st April 2020. Dr Malumbazo will not only contribute to the energy sector, but she will provide knowledge and skills required by the EWSETA to achieve its mandate. Dr Malumbazo's expertise and knowledge will contribute in developing a thinking EWSETA board, who can function effectively, creatively and ethically as part of a skills development society.

Dr Malumbazo's remarkable academic achievements have established her as a valuable and respected mind in the mining and energy academic spheres. After completing her first degree in Chemical Sciences in 2004, she went on to complete a BSc Honours in Chemistry in 2006, and then in 2008 obtained an MSc in Organometallics Chemistry. In 2011, at the age of 26, Dr Malumbazo achieved a PhD in Coal Science from the University of Witwatersrand.

"Both my MSc and PhD were funded by Sasol and because of this I have realised the tremendous value of financial support for young people with ambitious career aspirations," comments Dr Malumbazo

“and the mandate of the EWSETA to assist young people with bursary finance is something that I can not only relate to, but is also close to my heart.”

After Dr Malumbazo completed her PhD in 2011, she was immediately employed by CSIR as a Researcher at the Material Science and Manufacturing under Energy and Processes Unit. This was followed in 2012 with a role as a Senior Scientist at the Council for Geoscience and involved the establishment of a Coal laboratory for both research and commercial purposes.

Dr Malumbazo is currently employed as a Senior Lecturer in Clean Coal Technology at the University of the Witwatersrand’s School of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering since April 2020.

In her current role as a senior lecturer, Dr Malumbazo is responsible for supervising postgraduate students in various topics that focus on "Coal beyond power generation", "Potential of Coal Bed Methane in SA" and "Shale gas potential in the Karoo Basin".

Before joining WITS, Dr Malumbazo was employed as a Senior Scientist at the Council for Geoscience, and during this time was provided the opportunity to be a Project Manager for a Shale Gas Karoo Drilling Project, as well as involvement in and leadership of various coal related projects. Her career trajectory continued in 2018 as a Chief Scientist for the Council of Geoscience, co-authorship of a book on coal and contribution to the IRP 2019 through the Fossil Fuel Foundation.

Talking on the role of the EWSETA in the energy and water sector, Dr Malumbazo believes that the EWSETA has an opportunity to contribute vastly to skills development in the Energy and Water Sector since these two sectors are the oxygen to South Africa's economy. Her expertise and skills will assist the EWSETA in identifying skills gaps in the energy sector since energy is a broad field and many tend to compactualise it only to electricity generation. In addition, electricity generation tends to be boxed in "coal to power generation", "nuclear to power generation" and "green energy".

“From a skills perspective, what South Africa does not have enough of is skills in "Gas to power generation" and gas is a cleaner energy source for power generation compared to coal,” emphasises Dr Malumbazo “I would like to see the EWSETA focus on skills development for the energy sector in its entirety and this includes all current and future power generation energy resources available to the country.”

In her role as a Board member, Dr Malumbazo intends applying her skills, expertise and experience in the energy sector to focus on developing scarce skills that the country is currently importing in the energy sector. She envisions an EWSETA at the forefront of developing future skills needed for major energy and water projects in South Africa. Furthermore, she would like to see the EWSETA pursuing excellent working stakeholder relations with policy makers, investors and companies in the energy and water sector.

“I want the EWSETA to be the ‘go to’ SETA entity, with a database of trained and well qualified skills set for energy and water in South Africa.”

Dr Malumbazo believes that women are executors who are driven by a cause and able to offer guidance and solutions for the betterment of an organisation. In her role as a Board member, and someone who operates as a ‘technical person’ in the energy sector, she hopes to bring guidance and solutions to the energy sector.

Q&A to Inspire Women

How would you describe yourself and your outlook on life?

How you treat yourself is crucial in life because you are setting out precedence on how the next person should treat you. My outlook in life is that wherever I am planted I should be able to leave footprints.

What motto do you live by and/or what is your daily philosophy?

God meets you where you are willing to be/go in life.

How do you like to start your day and end your day?

I start and end my day with a prayer.

In your personal life, what has been your greatest challenge?

Knowing and accepting myself.

What has been your greatest achievement?

Being at peace with self.

When you have lived your life, what legacy would you like to leave for your children and the world?

Never allow life's circumstances to control your life choices, you must always be able to make a choice in life. Always go with a choice that gives you your independence.