



**WOMEN'S MONTH 2020**

*Phenomenal Woman Profile*



### **Creating a Legacy of Developing South Africa's Youth**

Anyone who has met or interacted with Tsholofelo (Tsholo) Mokotedi, Acting Executive for Planning, Monitoring and Reporting at the EWSETA, would agree that this is a lady who oozes passion for skills development and the empowerment of young people in South Africa.

Tsholo who has a BA (Psychology and Criminology) and a Higher Education Diploma from the University of Limpopo, joined the EWSETA in 2011 as Water Sector Manager. She went on to fill the role as Acting COO in 2014, and then in 2016 was appointed Acting Executive for Stakeholder Engagements and Sector Collaboration, a role that has subsequently been rationalised to Planning, Monitoring and Reporting.

In this role, she is responsible for the formulation of the organisation's short-and-long-term functional strategies to deliver sustainable development and growth aligned to the national agenda. In addition, she oversees the development of the Strategic Plan, Annual Performance Plan and the provision of tools for Executive Management that assist in making strategic planning less complicated and more effective. She is also required to mobilise and lobby stakeholders for the successful implementation of the EWSETA Strategic Objectives

Tsholo's team is responsible for conducting studies and continuous research in the energy and water sector to inform planning and strengthen business development areas. Included in this, is the development of a results-based M&E system, tools and reporting templates.

Prior to joining the EWSETA, Tsholo worked with the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) where she stepped into various roles that saw her responsible for education, training and skills development, as well as lobbying and advocacy campaigns, curriculum development and project coordination.

"Whilst with IDASA, I trained provincial legislators throughout the country on parliamentary processes in the early days of our democracy," says Tsholo "and this gave me a platform to capacitate some of today's prominent female Ministers, who were at the time new to provincial legislation."

Tsholo has also demonstrated success as a writer, having penned several articles and monographs that have been published. She has profiled successful politicians such as Honourable Lindiwe Zulu, when she was Speaker of Gauteng Provincial Legislature. Whilst at IDASA, she also published a democracy reader on tolerance and co-authored a parliamentary pocketbook.

After a short stint as an independent consultant where she focused on training, workshop facilitation and curriculum development in democracy education, lobbying and advocacy, Tsholo joined the Transport Education and Training Authority (TETA) as the Practitioner in the Road Freight Chamber.

As a Deputy Director in the Department of Labour in the mid 2000 , she was instrumental in the establishment of the Quality Council for Trades and Occupation (QCTO). However, it was her passion in skills development, and particularly sector education and training authorities, that prompted her to return to the SETA environment.

South Africa's energy and water sectors face numerous challenges and Tsholo believes that she has a role to play.

"I will continue to mobilise social partners and stakeholders to help tackle the challenges faced by the sectors," continues Tsholo. "And I will continue to serve as an advocate for the National Skills Development Plan, The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), Roadmap for ESKOM, the National Water Resource Water (NWRS II) and supporting National Water and Sanitation Master Plan, as these are policies that seek to bring about change in these sectors."

Tsholo's faith is central to her life and it helps her to serve others. She has learned to completely depend and trust God with all her heart and not to lean on her own understanding. This revelation has assisted her as a Children's Church Pastor and a Pastors' wife, as well as to develop the discipline to juggle both her professional and ministry responsibilities and at the same time be a devoted wife and totally awesome mother to four boys and girl.

She is passionate about skills development and life-long learning and her dream is to see disadvantaged and aspirant learners succeeding in their career progression through gaining employment or developed into entrepreneurs.

"I truly believe that we can all leave a legacy. It need not be a gigantic mark, but it should be impactful and I want my passion for the development of our country's young people to be the legacy I leave," she concludes.