

Eastern Cape Department of Health Hosts Public Service Women's Management Week to Advance Women's Leadership

by Likhona Gobozi

On the 17th to the 18th, September 2026, the Eastern Cape Department of Health hosted a two-day Public Service Women's Management Week (PSWMW) at Regent Hotel in KuGompo City, bringing together stakeholders to reflect on progress, challenges and opportunities for advancing women's leadership and participation in public service. The programme provided a platform for meaningful dialogue on women's empowerment, leadership representation and the creation of inclusive and supportive working environments. Discussions also highlighted the eight guiding principles of PSWMW, employee wellness, psychological support, equitable resource allocation and the importance of ensuring that women are adequately supported to participate and progress in leadership.

A key focus of the programme was the current Senior Management Service (SMS) gender representation statistics, measured against the 50% target. The discussion provided an opportunity to examine progress made while identifying gaps and areas requiring further action towards achieving greater gender representation in senior management. The programme further addressed Empowerment Initiatives and the Reasonable Accommodation Audit, highlighting measures aimed at creating an enabling environment that responds to the diverse needs of employees. A Resourcing Brief also examined current departmental commitments against identified needs for gender transformation, placing emphasis on the importance of aligning resources with commitments and initiatives aimed at advancing women's representation.

Another key engagement focused on the Head of Department's engagement with women in senior management, providing an opportunity to assess progress, identify barriers and discuss practical actions towards achieving the 50% representation target. The programme concluded with a plenary discussion and formulation of specific, measurable and time-bound departmental commitments. These commitments are intended to translate discussions into concrete actions that can contribute to advancing women's participation and leadership within the Department. The two-day engagement reaffirmed the importance of sustained collaboration, accountability and supportive workplace practices in creating opportunities for women to thrive and contribute meaningfully to public service leadership.

ECDOH top management attending the PSWM



Acting HOD, Dr Mthandeki Xamlase giving support to the PSWMW engagement session.





Ms Nwabisa Ntantiso Chief Director HRM&D presenting on significance of PSWMW, highlighting the 8 guiding principles.