



SHERIFFS JOIN THE WORLD IN CELEBRATING WOMEN'S MONTH

"Our inner power our legacy"

...that was the gallant statement which united the women in the Sheriff's profession on the 23rd of August 2019 as they joined the nation in celebrating women's month in what was a spectacular luncheon held at Leriba lodge in Centurion, Pretoria. .

In what can be regarded as a first in the sheriff's profession, Gauteng women sheriffs hosted a spectacular event attended by women from provinces across the country.

The luncheon was attended by women sheriffs and women staffers from all sheriffs' offices across Gauteng province. It also attracted representatives from the Department of Justice, coaches from Insurance and Financial institutions as well as a motivational speaker.

The luncheon was also graced by the Chairperson of the SABFS Mrs Charmaine Mabuza who shared her experience as the first black woman sheriff to be appointed. She highlighted amongst others that it was not only difficult to be appointed as a sheriff but that once appointed, she had to learn the ropes with very little or no support. In her speech she alluded that great strides have been made in the transformation of the profession and the Board for sheriffs has now developed a Training Programme to mentor new sheriffs into the profession". Mrs Mabuza encouraged Sheriffs to be exemplary by uplifting women in their own offices

Mrs Petro Roodt who chairs the South African Association of Sheriffs (SASS), in her address, called on the women to actively participate in the profession's programmes and to avail themselves for the profession by bringing "your talents to this profession where we serve as the hands of the Justice system".

Retired Judge of the Constitutional Court, Justice Yvonne Mokgoro who was the key note speaker encouraged women to remain authentic and original in their life and profession. She went on to discourage women "to aspire to be like men but to be themselves and



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excel in what they do as women with the highest professional standards. She said that women should in fact “help one another to compete with each other” the result of which would be to carve out and leave a lasting legacy of women just as equipped and powerful as oneself. This spoke directly to our inner power being our legacy!

In remembrance of the struggle heroines, sheriffs saluted the women of 1956 for their bravery and expressed their own desire to reflect and reposition themselves as women now in the 4th Industrial Revolution era. They pledged to “define our specific role as Sheriffs in the **promotion of justice** and particularly access to the civil justice system, **how do we improve the profession’s image**, and how do we contribute towards **solving broader societal problems** within the communities that we serve” as sheriffs. Said Tumi Seboka, Sheriff of Randburg West.

As the first step towards their Social Responsibility Investment Programme, the women sheriffs adopted and donated a Cheque of **R10 000, 00**(Ten Thousand rand) to Tshwaraganang Children’s home in Hammanskraal.

The luncheon ended with a candle lighting ceremony which was lead by Emily Dhlamini , Sheriff Centurion East. The women pledged to make this an annual event where they would continue to gather to reflect on their on their journey within what can still be regarded as a male dominated profession.

It cannot go without mention that this was an event that attracted sheriffs across the profession divide even though it was organised under the auspices and support of SASS, it was intended to be a luncheon of women sheriffs by women and for women. We therefore wish to acknowledge the role and encouragement by Ms June Thomas who is not only the sheriff of Johannesburg South but the president of SANAPS as well.

Tumi Seboka