



## WOMEN IN SPORT WORKSHOP

By Jermina Kaka

**Polokwane:** Limpopo government in collaboration with Limpopo Sport Confederation held Women in Sport workshop to motivate women to have zero tolerance to discrimination in Sport on the basis of gender. The workshop was prompted by the need analysis of the Federation conducted by SASCOC through consultation with different Provincial Sport Confederations.

The workshop managed to identify issues that disempower and discriminate against women and girls; also assisted in capacitating women to understand sport policies and programmes and further influence role players in sport to consider women in their respective plans.

In the past, Women in sport and sportswomen were given the crumbs of sport administration, funding, sponsorship and media allocation by those who controlled the sport industry. The matter of discrimination of women and girls in sport based on gender preferences was raised several times but the changes are moving at a snail pace. Though, South Africa fancies itself to be passionate about sports and over the past two decades has launched a series of initiatives to promote women's participation. But it doesn't have a great deal to show for it. Women still remain underrepresented in all sports. The best example is at professional levels where the nation's main sports, cricket, rugby and football, have yet to consider establishing domestic leagues for women.

One of the participants said there is a need to ensure that the established women leagues receive the same stature as those of men. In addition, a number of initiatives have been launched to foster a sporting culture more conducive to the involvement of women. These included a National Strategy for Women and Sport which focused on both the grassroots level, helping more women to take part in sport, and the elite level, supporting those with potential to reach the highest levels – the Olympics.



(Information Provided) The South African government has introduced laws to promote equality, representation and redress in sport. These include:

The National Sport and Recreation Amendment Act, which was passed 10 years ago to "redress the inequalities" in sport and recreation in South Africa. The act requires federations to make provision for women and disabled people to participate at the top level of sport.

The South African White Paper on Sport and Recreation was released in 2012

The 2012 Transformation Charter for South African Sport identified women as a marginalised group, calling broadly for their increased access, representation and opportunities in sport.

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