



Physical Address Amatola House
6 Lancaster Road Vincent 5247

Tel +27 (0) 43 707 3700
Fax +27 (0) 43 707 3701

Postal Address
Private Bag X3 Vincent 5217

email aw@amatolawater.co.za
web www.amatolawater.co.za

MEDIA STATEMENT

Attention: All Media / News Editors

25th November 2023

For Immediate Release

AMATOLA WATER JOINS THE NATION IN COMMEMORATING 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM FOR NO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

East London – Amatola Water Board joins the nation in commemorating the *16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children* as part of our symbolic gesture to mark the ongoing nationwide struggle for the preservation of both women and children against Femicide and Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Commemorated under the 2023 national sub – theme “*Access for Women to Clean Water*”, Amatola Water’s posture is institutionally informed at its core, by our constitutional mandate and organisational stand that all of humanity, especially women and children, are entitled to their constitutionally protected human right to clean water.

It is therefore, our contention that denying South Africans their constitutional right to access clean water, is an unpardonable constitutional violation of every South African woman and child’s right to life, because water is life.

“The lack or rather denial of access of women and children’s right to clean water be it in the rural countryside, affluent suburban residencies, corporate environments, varying workplaces, community recreational facilities, private and public schools, and hospitals amongst others, is a fundamental violation of the South African supreme law, and therefore amount to violence,” asserted Board Chairperson Pamela Yako.

As part of its commemoration of the *16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children* officially launched by national government in Mbombela City in Mpumalanga today, the Amatola Water will be actively participating in a series of commemorative events and public activities that includes amongst others, hosting a *Women and Children’s Webinar* involving youth and leading women in the water sector.

The Webinar aims essentially to raise societal consciousness and public awareness about the embedded, violent dangers women and children face from men throughout South Africa.

The 16 Days of Activism For No Violence Against Women and Children is an annual national campaign that takes place from **25th November – 10 December**. The campaign focuses on raising public awareness about the devastating impact that gender – based violence and femicide have on women and children.

The campaign is this year commemorated under the theme *“Accelerating Action to end Gender Based violence and femicide: Leaving no one Behind”* with the sub – theme **“Safe Access for Women to Clean Water: A Basic Human Right”** seeking to address barriers women face in safely accessing water and sanitation in South Africa.

As part of its final Board Meeting for the year, the Board earlier today paid homage to women and children who were lost to femicide and GBV, by committing to utilising Board instruments and organisational policies as liberating, gender empowering tools against any fears of violence, gender abuse and child molestation whilst accessing water.

For media enquiries and more information:

Contact Acting Communication and Stakeholder Manager, Amanda Skritch

Contact and WhatsApp number 066 183 9663

Issued by Amatola Water Board

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