

## Women's month



## Departmental Gender Equality Gathering

Treasury will celebrate the women month by rolling gender based dialogues, including Public Service Women Management Week. The HOD will host women on SMS level in a Gender Equality gathering to assess progress made in the implementation of the Eight Principles Action Plan for promoting and empowering women in the Department.

As part of outreach programme Transformation Directorate together with Treasury women's forum as led

by Mrs. Masekoameng Onicca and Mrs. Nekhavhambe Shoni are spearheading a programme which female inmates and children in one prison around Limpopo will be beneficiaries of sanitary towels, blankets and toiletries.

The Limpopo Provincial Government event will be held at Vhembe District at a place called Masia Ramauba Sport Ground on the 9 August 2013, at 09h00

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The Heartland of Southern Africa - Development is about People

## The first formal women's organization (Bantu Women's League) was formed by Charlotte Maxeke in 1918



Charlotte Makgomo Maxeke (née Manny) (7 April 1874 - 16 October 1939), a South African religious leader and political activist, was born at Ramokgopa near Polokwane.

Women in South Africa played a prominent role in the struggle for equal rights long before any formal women's organizations came into being. As early as 1912, in what was probably the first mass passive resistance campaign in our country, Indian women encouraged Black and Indian miners in Newcastle to strike against starvation wages, and in 1913, Black and Coloured women in the Free State protested against having to carry identity passes, which White women were not required to do.

In 1918, Charlotte Maxeke started the first formal women's organization (Bantu Women's League) which was created to resist the pass laws. In the 1930s and 1940s there were many instances of mass protests, demonstrations and passive resistance campaigns in which women participated. By 1943, women could join the ANC and by 1948, the ANC Women's League (ANC WL) was formed with Ida Mtwana as its first president. Ida Mtwana was born in 1903 and worked as a dressmaker.

She was the first president of the ANC WL and a leader of many mass women's demonstrations from Western Native Township.

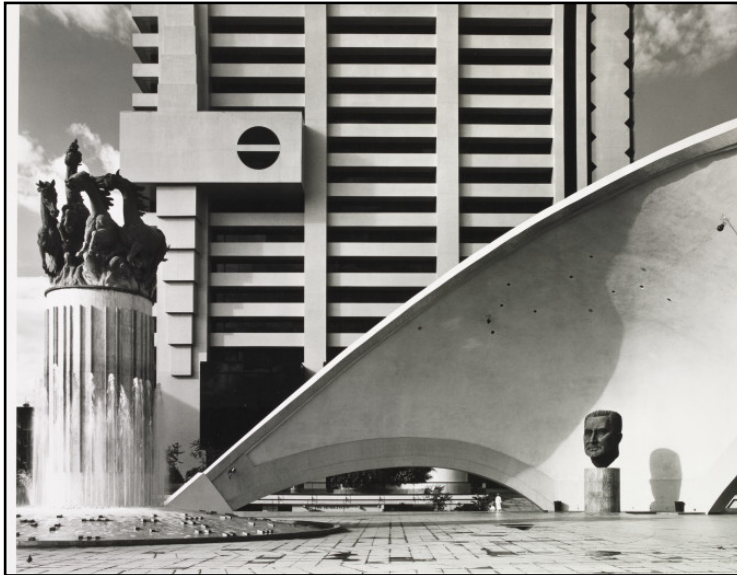
She was elected into the ANC Executive Committee during the 1950s, and in 1954 was also elected as National president of the FEDSAW, a position she held until 1956. She led the women's anti-pass demonstrations of the 1950s and was instrumental in the organization of the Congress of the People. In 1956, Ida was also one of the defendants in the marathon Treason Trial. Ida died in 1960.

The women's struggle became more militant in the 1950s. Thousands of Black, Coloured and Indian women took part in the Defiance Campaign in 1952, which involved the deliberate contravention of petty apartheid laws. In 1954, FEDSAW was established, which brought together women from the ANC, the South African Indian Congress (SAIC), trade unions and self-help groups for the first time. A Women's Charter was drawn up which pledged to bring an end to discriminatory laws

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struggle  
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## Before STRIJDOM SQUARE

## After LILLIAN NGOYI SQUARE



# STRIJDOM SQUARE IS NOW LILLIAN NGOYI SQUARE

**N**ine years ago, as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations for the 1956 Women's March, the South African government decided to rename Strijdom Square, where the Union Buildings in Pretoria are, as Lillian Ngoyi Square - to honor of all those who took part in the historic event.

On 9 August 1956, the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) organised mass demonstration against the imposition of pass laws on women in South Africa. More than 20 000 women, led by Lilian Ngoyi (a trade unionist and political activist), Helen Joseph, Albertina Sisulu, and Sophia Williams-De Bruyn, took part in the multi-racial march to the seat of government, the Union Buildings in Pretoria, to present a petition against the carrying of passes by the women to the Prime Minister JG Strijdom.

This was the famous Women's March celebrated as Women's Day on 9

August each year. The women's anti-pass campaign, the Women's Charter and their famous march to Pretoria became benchmarks in the struggle and continued to inspire decades of women until democracy was finally realized in 1994.

On this day, the South African people remembers thousands of women who marched to the Union Buildings to petition against the Pass Laws during the rollout of the Women's Month programme

It is 59 years since the FEDSAW organised a mass demonstration against the imposition of pass laws on women in South Africa. On the way to the Union Buildings the women sang a freedom song:

“Wathint’ abafazi, Strijdom!” wathint’ abafazi, wathint’ imbokodo, uza kufa! [When you strike the women, you strike a rock, and you will be crushed [you will die].

The phrase wathint’ abafazi, wathint’ imbokodo has come to represent women's courage and strength in South Africa.

“ Wathint’ abafazi,  
Strijdom! ”

## House Keeping

### USE OF (REPLY ALL) FEATURE TO EMAILS

There is a growing trend of people using Reply All feature to emails sent through departmental distribution list. This is extremely annoying and it has larger implications such as:

- Loss of productivity (due to users going through emails all with same subject which may result in the user deleting the entire email thread and possibly miss the actual intention of why the original mail was sent in the first place.)
- Puts unnecessary strain on our email system and networks

We therefore request that all users replying to emails sent through departmental distribution list to refrain from using the Reply All feature on outlook.

Failing to adhere to the HOUSE KEEPING RULES may result in the disabling of the Reply All feature for the offender.

All staff is expected to comply.

Did you know that  
South Africa is called  
“The Rainbow  
Nation”?



LIMPOPO  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROVINCIAL TREASURY

### Did you know?

Did you know?

Table Mountain in Cape Town alone has over 1,500 species of plants, more than the entire United Kingdom and is believed to be one of the oldest mountains in the world.

Did you know?

South Africa is the second largest exporter of fruit in the world and has the longest wine route in the world.

Did you know?

South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique are tearing down fences between the countries' game parks to create a 13,500 square mile game park, which will become the largest conservation area in the world. It will be bigger than Switzerland, Belgium or Taiwan.

Did you know?

South Africa's past President Nelson Mandela was imprisoned at Robben Island near Cape Town. His greatest pleasure, his most private moment, is watching the sun set with the music of Handel or Tchaikovsky playing. Locked up in his cell during daylight hours, deprived of music, both these simple pleasures were denied him for decades.