

AMEU Technical Convention 2018

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, all protocols observed. My name is Fakazile Tywaku Senior Technician

Registered Candidate Technician with ECSA

member of WiE

representing Eastern Cape branch

Been with NMBM for 8 years where I started as a graduate trainee, got employed as a junior technician in Electrification Division and later progressed to be a senior Technician. I manage Electrification Projects within the NMBM that are improving the lives of community members.

As a young lady proudly coming from rural areas of Mhlontlo Municipality Qumbu town where there are still granny's living with grandchildren struggling because they have no access to running water and electricity. I joined electricity industry with the intention of finding ways that can better the lives of people from where I come from.

I was introduced to the AMEU WIE through current AMEU EXCO members in the NMBM Mr Mvuleni Bukula and Mrs Shamiela Elliot

How WIE has impacted my personal development

My involvement with WiE has impacted on my personal development. The networking with the other ladies from different levels in the Sector i.e the WiE chairperson (Mrs Punkie Majola), current AMEU president (Mrs Refilwe Mokgosi), past AMEU president (Mrs Sy Gurroh) and other many more women who are in senior positions within the sector has made me realize that my dreams of growing in the electricity Sector is still possible. Dreams that I had already given up on because of various reasons were revived as involvement in the

WIE impacted my perception and the way of thinking. It made me believe in myself and begin to set myself realistic goals pertaining to my personal development and began to commit to those. I got so much inspiration to pursue my career development related goals and still aim very high. Lastly being involved with WIE has stimulated the desire and passion to help other ladies in their growth and development.

After the exposure we had with WIE, we took the opportunity to introduce the program in the Eastern Cape branch meeting, though not many ladies from EC municipalities attended the branch meeting, we made those present aware of the program and what it seeks to achieve. From there we tried to get contacts of ladies from other municipalities because we want to have more participation from the EC branch and that the program may reach even ladies from smaller municipalities of the EC. The plan is to have something as the branch that will involve all of us before the end of the year.

After the branch meeting we held NMBM internal WIE meeting where all technical ladies (trainees, graduates, ladies working in depots, management) were invited and again we unpacked the program and how can we benefit from it.

Closure

We are actively involved with WIE because our senior Management including AMEU EXCO members in NMBM fully support us and even other women empowering programs that help groom and develop women in the organization e.g Women recently attended a 2 days empowering women course Themed: Taking the lead with Resilience and Impact. Some women are involved with the program called WELA (Women in Engineering Leadership Association) program that is designed to help engineering students at varsity level, where they motivate and sometimes mentor students at that level.

In terms of women occupying decision making positions in NMBM, we have Sibongile Zenzile who is a WiE member and has recently been appointed as a Deputy Director Transmission Division.

Also when there are acting opportunities for management positions women do get considered however there is a room for improvement in getting more ladies involved in management positions.

Thank you