

NOMATHEMBA NESENI (MRS)

BIOGRAPHY

I am a Social Scientist by profession who holds a BSc in Politics and Administration, Masters Degree in Rural and Urban Planning, a Post graduate Diploma in Rural Development as well as a number of certificates in Gender, HIV and Aids, Community Centred Capacity Development and Human Rights Based Approaches to Programming and Participatory Approaches to Promoting Health and Hygiene. I am also part of the regional and national trainer of sanitation and hygiene having been trained under WHO/WSP initiatives on accelerating improved hygiene in Africa.

I am a self-starter, team player, dynamic, innovative lady able to work under pressure with minimal supervision. My areas of expertise are in Community Centred Capacity Development, sanitation approaches, hygiene ,participatory approaches; Human Rights Based Approaches to programming, mainstreaming gender, pro poor approaches in planning and project management. I also have a lot of experience in water supplies, hygiene, environmental health and sanitation issues, having worked for the water and sector for the past 18 years thereby carving myself a niche of respectability as an authority in the sector. I am currently working at the Institute of Water and Sanitation Development holding the position of Executive Director responsible for overseeing four business units in Research and Implementation, Finance and Administration, Capacity Development and Programming Information and Marketing. I am also a Human Rights Commissioner whose appointment was largely from the perspective of promoting socio economic rights such as access to water and sanitation. My particular strength is in mainstreaming rights of children, women and the poor.

I have a wealth of experience in social development, WASH, gender, water resources management and participatory approaches having worked with local governments and rural district councils in planning, implementation and monitoring of water supplies and sanitation, the national level in formulation of catchments and sub catchment councils as well as the regional level in the formulation of water policies anchored on the principles of IWRM. My work has resulted in my being appointed to the United Nations Task force on MDG 7 under Jeff Sacks where the main output was a book “ Water, hygiene and sanitation what will it take” worked on drafting of the first Resource Guide on Gender Mainstreaming in IWRM supported by UNDP and later revised under GWA.

Having worked at strategic policy making levels and operational I understand issues in an integrated manner and would thus contribute significantly to the steering committee. I have been passionate about sanitation issues and have influenced government significantly in their policies as a WSSCC coordinator and also Director of IWSD. We currently host the National Sanitation Task Force that seeks to eliminate open defecation in Zimbabwe.

Noma Neseni

Manifesto by Noma Nesei

At the start of the second decade of the 21st century the continent of Africa is faced with the shameful fact that over 200 million men, women and children defecate in the open every day contributing to the most appalling concentration of poverty and disease and among the poorest standards of hygiene in the world. Open defecation is a problem of colossal dimension and the manifestation of a stark sanitation situation, where widespread pollution, due to unsanitary disposal of human excreta threatens the life and well being of the natural environment and human environment. While water is high on the agenda of most countries, in recent years sanitation has been recognized as a human right alongside water necessary for human dignity, health, economic development, gender equality, poverty eradication and better water resources management.

As a steering committee member I will bring the practical field application and the understanding of global and regional policies. I have served as a task force member and Board member at a global level, served as a steering committee member for Global Water Partnership Southern Africa at a regional level for seven years. I will also bring to the WSSCC the human rights approaches and advocacy so that duty bearers can be held accountable and rights holders claim their rights with responsibility. I'm currently serving as the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commissioner

My interest is to ensure actions that will facilitate the attainment of sanitation for those that are excluded through institutionalized discrimination, policies, strategies and sanitation approaches. I have been active in the sector and have carried out advocacy leading to the development of the National Hygiene and Sanitation Strategies in Zimbabwe. In the region I have been facilitating and promoting the use of participatory approaches for community based approaches to health and hygiene. I believe that through my work as a sanitation practitioner I have earned some respect as an authority over the subject. I am now actively promoting sanitation as a human right in practice and implementation together with gender mainstreaming approaches.