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# **Women in Management: Our role in advancing and sustaining the STEM ecosystem**

*Finding Solutions for Africa*

# WHAT IT TAKES TO GET THERE!

- Qualifications
- Juggling roles
- The eternal GLASS CEILING



# WHERE DO WE START WITH STEM?

- In the HOME (role of girls and boys)
- In primary school (Maths & Sc. for all)
- In secondary school (subject choices)



# HIGHER EDUCATION

- What is the legacy?
  - Past
  - Race
  - Gender
  - Culture
- What is the possibility?
  - Democracy
  - Dreams
  - Destiny



# THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMPOPO (UL)

- Faculty of Science and Agriculture  
“Adopt a School”
- UL Science Centre  
“Taking science to schools”



# UL ROLE MODELS

- SARCHI Chair in Materials Modelling
  - Female PhDs in Physics
  - Regina Maphanga (Physics)
- Prof Maseksa Lesaoana
  - Maths and Stats Research Projects with postgraduate students
  - eScience MSc Masters programme



# UL FLAGSHIP - ULWASA

- History (11 years)
- Principles - women leadership, mentoring, succession.
- Model – women staff and postgraduate students involved in workshops, writing retreats.
- ULWASA Team



# ULWASA IN PICS





# ULWASA IN PICS



# ULWASA – AT WORK



# ADVANCING AND SUSTAINING STEM ECOSYSTEM

- Recognise opportunities (funding)
- Strategic thinking, planning, projects (Engineering School)
- Black female PhDs in STEM
- Community Engagement (STEM)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution (Big data, Artificial Intelligence).



# CONCLUSION

- Graveyard – biggest source of lost potential.
  - Unlived
  - Untapped
  - Unrealised
- Women scientists – we have one life, one chance – MAKE IT COUNT – BE A TRAILBLAZER!



# QUESTION TIME





# THANK YOU

***“There is no passion to be found  
playing small - in settling for a life that  
is less than the one you are capable of  
living.”***

**Nelson Mandela**