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Department:
Public Service and Administration
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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CIRCULAR NO 39 OF 2026

TO ALL HEADS OF NATIONAL/ PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENTS AND GOVERNMENT COMPONENTS

2026 PUBLIC SERVICE WOMEN MANAGEMENT WEEK: 24 TO 28 AUGUST 2026

1. The Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) extends warm greetings to all departments as we prepare to commemorate Public Service Women Management Week.
2. The 2026 Public Service Women Management Week will take place from 24 to 28 August 2026.
3. The programme supports implementation of the 8-Principle Action Plan for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality in the Public Service.
4. It also provides an annual platform and opportunity for departments to assess progress in advancing women to senior management levels.
5. As at June 2026, women constituted 43% of the Senior Management Service, against the 50% target. Departments must therefore strengthen the implementation of measures that promote women's development, advancement and equitable representation.
6. The underrepresentation of women with disabilities remains a significant concern. Departments must intensify targeted recruitment, retention, development and advancement measures to accelerate progress towards the 3% minimum representation target under applicable labour legislation and are further encouraged to advance towards 7% by 2030, as articulated in the 2026 State of the Nation Address.
7. The 2026 programme coincides with the 70th anniversary of the 1956 Women's March. It provides an important opportunity to reflect on progress and reaffirm the Public Service commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality.
8. During the designated week, Heads of Department and Directors-General are required to:
 - a) convene and chair a meeting with female Senior Management Service members;
 - b) present the department's progress, challenges and planned interventions relating to women's development and gender equality;
 - c) Use the 8-Principle Action Plan as the agenda for the meeting; and

d) Complete the prescribed reporting template and submit it to the Department of Public Service and Administration by 31 October 2026.

9. Non-compliance will be treated seriously, and departments will be required to implement appropriate corrective measures. Heads of Department and Directors-General are therefore requested to ensure full participation and the timely submission of departmental reports.

Your cooperation in advancing women's empowerment and gender equality across the Public Service is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WVUKELA', with a horizontal line underneath it.

MR WILLIE VUKELA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 17/07/26