

Zelpha MAKAE, is a dedicated Environmental Health Professional, with over 20 years of experience in Environmental Health field. Rendered environmental municipal health services in Matjhabeng Local Municipality for 3 years and 4 years in Lejweleputswa District Municipality. Driven by a passion for community wellness and environmental health impact sustainability, Zelpha's career focuses on identifying, evaluating, and mitigating physical, chemical, and biological hazards emanating from the environment. Zelpha began her professional journey after earning her Nat. Diploma in Environmental Health, further Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health from the Central University of FS.

Early in her career, during her Community Services at Thabo Mofutsanyana District, at Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality. There was enforce foodstuffs, Cosmetics and disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972) on consignments imported through the ports of entry, Ficksburg Bridge: Maputswoe and Caledonspoor. During her work at the local and district municipal health services she worked as a field inspector, part of her responsibilities were Water Quality Monitoring, Food Control, Waste Management, Health Surveillance of Premises, Surveillance & d Prevention of Communicable Diseases, Vector Control, Environmental Pollution Control, Safe Disposal of the Dead, Inspection of initiation Schools, Inspection for meat safety at local abattoirs and butcheries and participated in the provincial and district forums.

This foundational work instilled in her a deep understanding of environmental legislation, the critical relationship between community structures, different government departments and private within and out of borders.

Currently, Zelpha serves as a Environmental Health Practitioner Officer, where she designs, implements Environmental Health services, core function being Waste Management, Pest Control strategies, Water and Food Monitoring and coordination.

A major milestone in her sustainable Integrated Pest Control Measures recent tenure includes developing a localized risk-assessment framework that successfully reduced vector/ pests and chemical workplace safety incidents across tertiary hospital operations. Further consistent achievement to obtain clean external Environmental Health audits, last one conducted was conducted by an independent body- OHSC achieved in 2025 and achieved Excellent (90%-100%) audit outcomes.

Beyond her daily regulatory compliance work, Zelpha is an active member of the South African Institute of Environmental Health and frequently volunteers for community Environmental Health related associates programs. She believes that effective environmental health management relies on bridging the gap between rigorous technical data and empathetic community education.