



water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Minister Mokonyane calls for African countries to unite in finding water solutions

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African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) has vowed to intensify their efforts to address water challenges facing the African continent by working with all the countries in the continent in a coordinated manner.

This commitment was declared during the last day of the World Water Day Summit and Expo that was held at the iNkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, Durban.

AMCOW member states echoed each others sentiments during the Summit that there are a lot of plans in place but the main stumbling block is money to finance the projects.

Speaking at the Summit, Water and Sanitation Minister, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane said time has come for African countries to work together and unify to address African problems on their own.

“We can’t continue to rely on other continents to address our problems in Africa; we therefore need Africans who have financial muscles to play a critical role in funding our African programmes,” she emphasised.

One of the things that AMCOW agreed on was to call a meeting with all the Finance Ministers in the continent in order to address the water challenges that the continent is facing.

“I am pleased that as part of this Summit we managed to source and share information with our regional counterparts in AMCOW, River Basin organizations, African Union Water Specialists and African Development Bank,” said Minister Mokonyane.

Minister Mokonyane added that they were all optimistic that the Summit will create a road map for the continent to utilize the political commitments made in acceleration of the implementation of the African United Agenda 2063 which seeks to change the lives of many in our country and on the continent.

In conclusion, Minister Mokonyane announced that the outcomes of the Summit will be shared with African Union in order for them to form part of the upcoming activities such as World Economic Forum Africa in May and the Africa Water Summit in July.

Minister Mokonyane’s counterpart from the Kingdom of Swaziland, Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Ms Jabulile Mashwama said AMCOW has viewed drought not only as a challenge but rather as an opportunity to raise standards with regards to water provision.



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“Our declaration is to aspire to be recognized, to improve the standards and to receive adequate funding that will enable us to ensure that water supply is not a challenge, but rather an opportunity to take AMCOW the next level,” she said.

Minister Mashwana reiterated AMCOW’s commitment to build stronger partnerships, invest in water for the future, and enhance young innovative minds to break the barriers that have been created by the African countries themselves.

The Summit adopted a Durban Political Declaration which was signed by the United Nations’ High Level Panel on Water, AMCOW, United Nations Agencies and role players that were part of the robust discussions.

All the delegates who were part of the Summit spoke in one voice about the importance of wastewater as an alternative resource.

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