



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

South Africa in collaboration with the United Nations hosts World Water Day in Durban

22 March 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation in collaboration with the KwaZulu - Natal provincial government and the United Nations Water today, 22 March 2017 hosted the World Water Day in KwaZulu - Natal at the Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre.

The day, which was held under the theme “Waster water the untapped resource”, aimed to highlight the underestimated role of wastewater for socio economic development, as well as to speak on the High Level Panel on water and its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The panel, which is in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in particular SDG6 on water, seeks to motivate effective action through focusing on public policy dialogue, private sector models and practices, and civil society initiatives towards the water SDG.

In addition the panel advocates on financing and implementation through promoting efforts to mobilize financial resources and scale-up investment for the water and sanitation SDG, including innovative financing and implementation of strategies.

Speaking at the summit the President of South Africa His Excellency Mr Jacob Zuma in his capacity as the member of the High Level Panel on Water said the panel aims to inspire commitment for an urgent call by world leaders to ensure the availability and sustainable management and access to water and sanitation for all.

In his key note address President Jacob Zuma, said “thus far 147 countries have met the SDG drinking water target, 95 countries have met the sanitation target and only 77 countries have met both.”

“These statistics do not do justice in conveying the development and the health challenges faced by so many people or even contextualizing how unevenly these basic services are distributed around the world or in societies” said President Zuma.

However, with global leaders joining forces around the world to create equal chances of success at all levels in our race against time to secure the most precious resource of fresh water for current and future generations greater strides can be made.

President Jacob Zuma said “we have the potential to create a new and positive social pathway through water and sanitation infrastructure, better human settlement and data and building social relations of forging international cooperation,”



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As part of his concluding remarks, President Zuma officially declared the summit open which through the thematic sessions will highlight the progress achieved and also move forward in changing the narrative on water and sanitation.

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