



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

World Water Week conference will give traction to SA's ability to achieve SDG 6

28 August 2017

Stockholm - The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane today, 28 August 2017, said the South African participation in the World Water Week Conference held in Stockholm, Sweden, will give traction to the country's interaction about water mix around water reuse and reduction of water use.

Minister Mokonyane said this could be done through water treatment plants or innovative solutions where you remove the waste from the water and you put it back into the system. She said work was already being carried out in the treating of mine water in Gauteng, including desalination in the Western Cape.

Minister Mokonyane was speaking after the official opening of the World Water Week Conference, which is organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). The conference is an annual focal point for the globe's water issues and takes place under the theme: "water and waste: reduce and reuse".

"We are working together with local government to see how best we can harvest the waste in our waste water treatment plants and turn it into useable water. A lot of professional and scientific information, as well as infrastructure that is innovative is coming through but what is most important is collaboration between government and the private sector," Minister Mokonyane said.

She said this was vital for the realisation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 of the United Nations in terms of making sure that there is access to clean and safe water and sanitation.

Minister Mokonyane reiterated the importance of mobilisation of resources and, most importantly, the partnership between government and the private sector which is informed by research and innovations.

Talking about the work the government has already achieved, Minister Mokonyane said government has done well in turning the situation around in the provision of clean water. However, she cited infrastructure maintenance as a major challenge which rests with local government, saying this required planning and funding.

"Another area where we are doing well is the picking of all those bigger areas such as the problematic area of spillages of sewer into our systems. We are now strengthening our consequence management, including penalties to municipalities regarding the contamination of our water system, Minister Mokonyane said.

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