



## water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# MEDIA STATEMENT

## SADC countries give progress on their SDGs commitments

25 September 2018

Today, 25 September 2018, representatives from various organisations from nine countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region converged at Emperors Palace, Kempton Park, to give progress reports on Sustainable Development Goals commitments.

The event, dubbed Ngor Commitments Monitoring Sub-regional Meeting for Southern Africa was a platform for countries to review undertakings made during the 4<sup>th</sup> AfricaSan Conference held in Senegal in 2015.

In the 2015 conference, a set of commitments were concluded, wherein each country has been expected to work on to address the challenges each country is facing.

The commitments are as follows:

- Focus on the poorest, most marginalised and unserved aimed at progressively eliminating inequalities in access and use and implement national and local strategies with an emphasis on equity
- Establish and track sanitation and hygiene budget lines that consistently increase annually
- Mobilise support and resources at the highest political level for sanitation and hygiene to disproportionately prioritise sanitation and hygiene in national development plans
- Develop and fund strategies to bridge the sanitation and hygiene human resource capacity gap at all levels
- Ensure inclusive, safety managed sanitation services and functional handwashing facilities in public institutions and spaces
- Eliminate untreated waste
- Enable and engage private sector in developing innovative sanitation and hygiene products

South African is amongst the nine countries in the SADC regions that has already provided progress report on how what it has done to date to progressively deal with sanitation challenges it faces.

Sanitation Project Manager at AMCOW, Mr Kitchinme Bawa praised South African Government for establishing a department that focuses on sanitation issues and urged other member states to follow suit so that sanitation challenges can be addressed as a matter of urgency.

“I am particularly impressed that South Africa has gone a step further with its 2016 Sanitation policy and I know that Zimbabwean Government is working on their Sanitation Strategy and I hope that other member states will fast track their initiatives. If we do not address sanitation



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challenges, it will be very catastrophic for Africa, cutting across education, health, and entire productivity and livelihood of our people.

Tshepang Malakwane, Director for Africa Multilaterals at Department of Water and Sanitation said this engagement will provide them with an opportunity to benchmark with what other countries are doing.

He added that South Africa has placed focus on the reduction of the sanitation backlog by ensuring universal access to sanitation and this has resulted in the country advancing in addressing sanitation backlog but there still challenges.

“These challenges prompted the review of the existing sanitation policies with a view to address all the gaps that have been identified over the past 22 years of implementation and unlock the challenges to ensure a seamless delivery of sustainable sanitation services.

“With the development of South Africa's Sanitation Policy, the new national and international development imperatives have been taken into consideration which include our National Development Plan (NDP) targets of all South Africans having affordable and reliable access to hygienic sanitation before 2030. This includes the 2015 international Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) which aim to achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, particularly women and girls”, he said.

The meeting today, is a curtain raiser for the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> AfricanSan Conference meeting of the Ministers of Water and Sanitation in the African continent to be held in Côte d'Ivoire in February 2019.

The member states will deliberate on the progress made by each member state for the next two days, compare each commitment and AMCOW will compile a draft report with recommendations

**ENDS**

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