



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

AMCOW Member States make recommendations to improve sanitation services on the Continent

21 February 2019

Today, 21 February 2019, the Minister of Water and Sanitation in South Africa, Hon. Gugile Nkwinti, again met his counterparts from different countries who are members of the African Ministers Conference on Water (AMCOW). The Ministers and sector partners signed agreements and recommendations made during the course of the week to advance the improvement of sanitation delivery on the continent.

Ministers from Burundi, South Africa, and Zambia, representatives from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and officials of the Water Research Commission congratulated South Africa for its achievement in the delivery of water and sanitation. These include the development of a National Master Plan for Sanitation that can be shared with other African countries, and the use of new technologies in sanitation. These technologies are being used to provide villages and towns with dry sanitation.

Dr Canisius Kanangire, Executive Secretary of AMCOW, emphasized that South Africa, and Africa at large, needs technologies that use less water and that are acceptable to people, especially in rural areas. One paradigm that can revolutionize the sanitation landscape in Africa is the need for a transition from looking at sanitation as a social service to building the sanitation industry.

There is a need to appreciate the correlation between sanitation services and health, whilst recognising the potential of the sanitation industry to contribute to economic development. Member States also stressed the need to mobilise adequate resources that the continent needs to achieve the sanitation targets.

The recommendations made are as follows:

- i. AMCOW Secretariat and its AfricaSan partners to develop a programme aimed at promoting the use of available technologies as a pilot.
- ii. AMCOW Secretariat to continue its strengthening process in order to uphold a high level of integrity and accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in resource mobilisation, and programmes' management.
- iii. AMCOW Secretariat and Member States to improve the quality of water and sanitation data; strengthen the Water and Sanitation Sector Monitoring system; establish a Knowledge Management and Information Sharing hub at the AMCOW Secretariat; and link up with relevant water and sanitation institutions, including the Water Research Commission in the Republic of South Africa.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- iv. AMCOW Secretariat to mobilise resources to facilitate south-south knowledge exchanges for senior African officials and policy makers to share lessons and experiences from successful initiatives in countries such as India and Senegal.
- v. AMCOW Governing Council to work with the African Union Commission to convene a Summit of Head of States and Governments on Water and Sanitation by 2020.
- vi. AMCOW to appoint AMCOW Ambassadors who will support advocacy for water and sanitation agenda.
- vii. AMCOW Secretariat to organise a Ministerial Dialogue before the end of 2019, to enable Ministers to deliberate on sanitation issues.

These recommendations will be implemented in line with a hope to realise the Sustainable Development Goal 6.2 and accelerate inclusive sanitation service delivery.

This evening Minister Nkwinti will officially close the 5th Edition of the AfricaSan and Faecal Sludge Management Conference.

ENDS

Issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation

For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau: Director Media Liaison on 082 874 2942

For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal at:
www.dwa.gov.za