



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

The 5th AfricaSan Conference kicks off in Cape Town

19 February 2019

Today, the Minister of Water and Sanitation Mr Gugile Nkwinti officially opened the 5th AfricaSan and International Faecal Sludge Management conference (FSM) at Cape Town International Convention Centre.

The conference, organised by African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW), is looking at the hygiene and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), policies and regulations for the sludge transportation as well as monitoring and using evidence to improve hygiene and sanitation.

Addressing the delegates, Minister Nkwinti said: "Important it is for us, Africa and the rest of the world in shifting our priorities to be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

According to Mr Kitch Bawa; AMCOW secretariat, there has been good progress across Africa against the commitment to establish leadership and coordination. However, he noted that the Continent is still lagging behind its commitment to eliminate inequalities in access to sanitation as well as the commitment to establish budgets for sanitation and hygiene. "For most commitments, less than half countries have made sufficient progress in establishing the enabling environment, to be able to monitor progress: said Bawa.

Mr Emmanuela Tony, AMCOW President, said the conference has picked a moment to improve sanitation in the continent. He says South Africa is one of the countries that are fast tracking the provision of water and sanitation. He noted that South Africa hosted the first SFM in 2001.

Sub-Saharan Africa is one of the regions with the lowest coverage of access to improved sanitation facilities. The region missed Millennium Development Goal 7 (MDG7) "to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015". Only 28% of nearly 1 billion population living in this region has access to basic sanitation facilities.

The conference is scheduled to end this Friday.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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