



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS partners with science institutions to assess South Africa's progress on SDGs

24 July 2019

Department of Water and Sanitation partnered with science institutions on a two-day workshop held on 23 and 24 July 2019 to gauge the progress that has been made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) 6.

Researchers from institutions such as the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) and the Inter Academy partnership (IAP) as well as government officials and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) assessed the country's progress towards ensuring access to clean water and proper sanitation.

The SDG 6 targets were set by the United Nations with the aim of improving sanitation and access to clean drinking water for all.

Mark Bannister, Chief Engineer for Water Services and Local Water Management at the Department of Water and Sanitation, said DWS is mandated to guarantee the implementation of SDG 6, which is to ensure access to water and sanitation for all.

He highlighted notable achievements in terms of water quality in the country, including 52% of effluent being discharged safely through the Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW), adding that 59% of surface water bodies have good quality water.

He said a comprehensive water quality management strategy and draft water quality management policy has been developed.

Bannister said: "In terms of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, South Africa is up to measure and so is the case with water access," reiterating that 93% of the population has access to clean water supply services.

However, said Bannister, a challenge is still with 47% of South Africa's rivers which have good water quality while the rest of them range from moderate to poor.

Bannister added that South Africa is performing well on an international platform, in terms of SDG 6 but that there is still a lot to be done.

He said it is important to get a right strategy and implement a simple and logical approach when dealing with SDG 6.

"It is crucial to develop a team approach and align existing initiatives and plans, and also engage with other stakeholders and SDG leaders," he said.

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