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INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mokonyane urges SA delegates to draw lessons from World Water Week

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The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane said the World Water Week Conference which is currently taking place in Stockholm, Sweden, should be used as a springboard to adapt to innovation and embracing new technology to foster behavioural change of water users in South Africa.

Addressing the South African delegates at the water sector briefing on Sunday, 27 August 2017, at the Sheraton Hotel, Minister Mokonyane said part of what they should be aware of was that the World Water Week has moved in terms of focus to issues that encourage responsible water use.

Speaking on the importance of the conference, Minister Mokonyane said: "With a theme that focuses on waste water and the areas of reuse, the conference call on innovation, adaptation, embracing technology but it also call on changing behaviour and attitude by the end user."

The conference, which is organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), an annual focal point for the globe's water issues takes place under the theme: "water and waste : reduce and reuse".

During the week-long conference experts, practitioners, decision-makers, business innovators and young professionals will exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions to the pressing water related challenges.

Mokonyane said there were important lessons that could be learnt out the conference, stressing that these lessons could help South Africa to build on the work that it has already done in the water space.

"There are things that we can learn out of this week and there are things that we can perfect based on what we have started to do as a country. Part of the programme is going to be lifting the issues of innovation to use and manage grey water that south Africa is embracing in terms of short to medium intervention around acid mine drainage," Minister Mokonyane said.

She said through working together as partners South Africa could become a leader with regard to the reuse of used mine water and redirecting it to better use rather than putting it back to the system.

Offering words of support to the delegates, South African ambassador to Sweden, Ms Faith Doreen Radebe, expressed hope that the conference has something to offer South Africa, especially in the areas of waste water management, renewable energy and water purification.

"I am sure that we will have sufficient time to interact and share ideas on how to advance South African inter

Encouraging the three learners from Limpopo's Lubeko High School, who are participating in the Stockholm junior water prize, Minister Mokonyane said the three learners were already



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winner by being in this competition. The learners are Thami Mokgotho, Kutulo Mmola and Luka Nkwane.

The competition brings under one roof visionary young minds from all over the world, arousing their interest in water and sustainability issues. The competition draws more than 10 000 entries from over 30 countries.

“You are amongst the chosen few. Go and contest. Don’t be threatened by the fact that you are in Sweden and do what you are good at,” Minister Mokonyane concluded.

Hosia Sithole