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INTERNET ARTICLE

SADC water dialogue seeks ways to create space for job creation

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The Southern African Development Community's (SADC's) Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue on Wednesday, 22 November 2017, shifted its attention to focus on creating an enabling environment for implementing of the Water-Energy and Food nexus approach to foster sustainable value chains and job creation.

The Department of Water and Sanitation held the 8th SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue, on behalf of SADC at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg.

The dialogue's theme is: "Water Development in SADC-Fostering Regional Value Chains and Job Creation through the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Approaches".

The dialogue provides a platform for water, energy, food and economic and gender policymakers to practitioners to develop strategies to ensure that nexus approaches contribute to fostering regional value chains and job creation.

The dialogue broke into four groups with the aim of soliciting recommendations on creating a platform to achieve sustainable value chains and create jobs in the region.

The questions that the four groups had to find answers to included governance considerations in driving nexus in creating opportunities for wealth and for fostering wealth, taking nexus investments forward to support implementation for projects, nexus for livelihoods-using a nexus approach to improve livelihoods opportunities and create wealth.

The fourth question involved the matter of nexus for value chain: using a nexus approach to drive jobs national and regional agro-processing value chains.

Amongst some of the answers which featured prominently was the need for a programmatic approach, inclusivity, focussing on addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and making use of champions to make progress.

Financing mechanisms, which are central to achieve a closer collaboration of the water-energy and food sectors, were also identified as key in order to avoid burdening the fiscus.

The panel discussion on approaches to foster sustainable value chains and job creation, provided a number of key responses which included, but not limited to the following:

- The need to formalise the nexus approach going forward
- The need to develop rules and guidelines going forward to mainstream the nexus approach as well as provision of a decision support tool



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- Availability of funding
- Providing institutional incentives for collaboration across sectors
- Application of the nexus approach to existing projects

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