



INTERNET ARTICLE

The importance of trans-boundary water management

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The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Ms Pamela Tshwete, says co-operation around water management with other African countries is important for economic development.

She made these remarks during the welcoming cocktail function at the Grand Hotel in Stockholm (Sweden) during the World Water Week (WW) where she is leading Team South Africa representing the African Continent.

The occasion is the forerunner to the holding of the Annual Stockholm World Water Prize and the Stockholm Junior Water Prize competitions. The WWW started on Sunday, 26 August 2018 and will end on 31 August 2018.

South Africa's interest is on winning the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition for the third time. The country has won this Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition more than twice through the winners of the South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP).

The SAYWP is a project on science and innovation. It targets high school learners from Grade 9 to Grade 10. The national winner represents South Africa in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) in Sweden, competing with learners from 30 countries, annually.

Kwazi Zwezwe from Nokweja (a rural village in KwaZulu-Natal) – and who is a Grade 9 learner from Ixopo High School – is flying the South African flag.

Deputy Minister Tshwete said: "We are all gathered here as Team South Africa and are honoured to be representing the African continent in the margins of the 2018 World Water Week, which is an annual focal point for the globe's water issues. In the year 2018, we celebrate the life of the father of our nation, Nelson Mandela, who fought apartheid and all forms of colonialism. He would have been 100 years old today. I would also like to acknowledge the lives of Kwame Nkrumah, Patrice Lumumba, Chief Moshodi Abiola among others who dedicated their lives in fighting colonialism in and around Africa."

She stressed that there were three main things that "...we must do to advance Africa's authentic liberation. Firstly, African rulers must exercise sovereignty over African lands and riches and use these for the benefit of their people. This is true national independence from colonialism and imperialism."

"Secondly, education is the key to the development of Africa. Quality education is key to creating, owning and controlling Africa's wealth and while mentally decolonising her people's captured minds," noted the DM.

"Thirdly, as the water community, South Africa needs to cooperate with neighbouring African countries in the following areas:



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- Management in the field of utilisation and protection of water resources
- Trans-boundary management
- Comprehensive utilisation of water resources
- Protection and rehabilitation of water resources
- Training of specialists in water and sanitation in the specialised institutions of higher education
- Water quality management
- Capacity building
- Wastewater treatment management and technologies
- Monitoring and information provision about utilization and protection of water resources;
- Hydrological information systems
- Capacity exchange programmes...”

The World Water Week gives us an opportunity to gather and demonstrate the experiences, technologies and resources that people are mobilising in order to deal with water quality management problems. The Week will analyse promising examples, case studies and leading-edge technologies that are in use around the world. This will draw attention to effective response measures related to pollution prevention, wise resource use and sound abatement practices and allow for an analysis of the alternatives to improve the current and future water quality problems. Ideas, examples and initiatives are sought that will stimulate the discussion.

She added that the country needs to strategically use this World Water Week to:

- Engage on this platform to advance Africa’s water agenda
- Mobilise resources for Africa to meet their SDG targets on water and sanitation
- Enhance Africa Youth participation
- Leverage donor funding for Africa
- Position Africa as a preferred destination for investment.

Ike Motsapi