

**GENDER, WATER AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
VOTE OF THANKS BY DEPUTY MINISTER: WATER AND
SANITATION**

MS PAMELA TSHWETE :07 NOVEMBER 2014

Chairperson of the Session

Ministers and Deputy Ministers

International Conference Delegates

Local Conference Delegates

Leaders of Water and Sanitation Entities

Representatives of Academic Institutions

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of our country, the Water Family, and many local organisations and institutions who participated in this Conference I wish to express our gratitude for the kind of support given to our government by all delegates who attended this eventful International Gender, Water and Development conference held in Eastern Cape, South Africa.

Since we began the process of organising this Conference, we received many words of patronage from seasoned activists within AMCOW and revitalising words of encouragement from

experienced organisations and institutions working in the water sector.

Determined to be there in South Africa and in particular the Eastern Cape was a buzz message from men and women, young and old, urban and rural, technocrats and operators, industrialists and homeowners from all over the globe.

Since the arrival of the first delegates on Sunday, 02 November 2014 the process of learning and exchange of information began with interactions across countries and training presentations by renowned world water specialists. The local site visits by delegates gave an overview of what women and youth in the water and sanitation projects around could bring within our communities.

The Speakers in the High Level Opening Ceremony settled the Conference for a good start and paced it into an invaluable information sharing platform and a welcoming space for interactive engagements. The plenary sessions speeches and the various tracks and panel presentations continued to place the Conference at yet another level never seen before.

The call for immediate action in policy formulation around gender mainstreaming, food security, energy connectivity, water supply and adequate sanitation became very prominent in the deliberations by delegates from all over the world.

The Indaba held yesterday and today placed this Conference right at the hands of the masses of our people. Delegates from all levels interacted with one another freely and robustly creating a spirit of trust and friendship amongst all participants.

The body of information unearthed and collected in the Indaba was all recorded and captured. This valuable body of knowledge will be synthesised, consolidated and translated into programmatic activities within the entire water sector and family.

This Conference has been a success through many voluntary efforts by various countries, organisations, government departments, tertiary institutions and individuals representing the water and sanitation family in the globe.

The epitome of this conference's success is the rich and encompassing declaration that will be the basis and the

guideline in implementing the resolutions in our different spaces and countries.

Amongst these countries I would like to thank and mention the following: Sudan, Namibia, Netherlands, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Algeria, Tajikistan, United States of America, Gambia, Zambia, and Germany.

We were able to provide for all delegates during this conference through the generosity of many caring sponsors such as the Department of Water and Sanitation, Rand Water, Lesotho Highlands Water Projects, Amatola Water, Amanz' Abantu, Water Research Commission, Trans - Caledon Tunnel Authority, Anglo American Platinum, Global Water Partnerships, Cap - Net, Women for Water Programme, Coca - Cola, Stockholm Water Institute, Water Institute of Southern Africa, Southern African Development Community, International Water Management Institute, Orange River Senqu Commission, Lagos State Water Corporation, Klein Karoo Dry - Lands Permaculture Project, Umgeni, Water Aid and Rennie's Travel.

A special word of thanks goes to the South African government as represented by the various government departments, the

provincial and local government spheres and the government entities who participated in the organisation of this conference. Furthermore I want to mention the Office of the Premier, Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Department of Health, South African Police Services, Department of Environmental Affairs, Department of Human Settlements and the Spousal Office of Presidency in particular Madam First Lady Nompumelelo Ntuli-Zuma.

Lastly I would like to thank my dear children who pulled together this conference and made it the success it was. This team was led by able senior managers and their assistants in all directorates of the Department of Water and Sanitation.

I want to conclude by thanking my Minister for trusting me to lead in organizing this august Conference in our country attended by these lovely delegates who selflessly continue to carry the wishes and aspirations of their communities. Thank you very much; without you we would not have unearthed this body of information we now have.

This information will be used in the resolution of many challenges facing water in this country and many participating

countries in this Conference. Thank you very much and have safe journey back home.

I thank you