



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## **WELCOMING REMARKS BY HOST MINISTER THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, NOMVULA MOKONYANE AT THE OCCASION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERS' COUNCIL ON WATER (AMCOW) MINISTERS CLOSED SESSION**

**VENUE: INKOSI ALBERT LUTHULI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE  
(ICC)**

**DATE: 23 MARCH 2017**

AMCOW Vice Presidents

AMCOW Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members

AMCOW Secretariat and support staff

All protocol observed

On behalf of the Government of South Africa, as the host Minister, permit me to welcome all the AMCOW Vice Presidents, Vice President (Eastern Africa) and Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation, South Sudan, Hon. Sophia Pal Gai representing the AMCOW President, AMCOW Vice President (North Africa) / Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation, Dr Mohamed Abedel Atty, Vice President Southern Africa and Minister for Water Resources and Energy, Hon. Jabulile Mashwama, Vice President (Western Africa) and Minister for Public Works, Liberia, Hon. William Gyude Moore and my colleague sister from Zimbabwe, Hon. Oppah Muchuguri, the AMCOW Executive Secretary, Dr Canisius Kanangire, AMCOW TAC Members here and Secretariat to this Special AMCOW closed session in our beautiful city Durban.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the AMCOW President and you Vice Presidents on your election into the AMCOW Executive Committee for the period of July 2016 – June 2018. I thank you for your able leadership you have thus far provided for our organisation.

I am particularly pleased that in our region, Southern Africa, Swaziland will now be leading as Vice President and that my sister, Hon. Jabulile Mashwama is here with us and under her leadership, we will co –ordinate our efforts in the Water and Sanitation sector more effectively to support the implementation of the AMCOW programmes.

Today we are gathering firstly to get briefings from AMCOW Secretariat on AMCOW Today and future outlooks, which is intended to give us guidance on the future of AMCOW and how we can make this our organisation more vibrant in providing political leadership on policy direction and advocacy water and sanitation issues in Africa. It is good to note that AMCOW is currently developing a 10-year Programme strategy which will embody a three year work plan for the continued implementation of the Africa Water Vision and the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration. I also note that AMCOW is also in the process of developing a knowledge Management and Information Sharing Strategy to ensure that the institution becomes knowledge and information clearing house for the sector in the continent. I am hopeful that when consultations on this system are initiated and completed, this would be rolled out to all regions.

It is also noticeable that to ensure a system of good governance within AMCOW, Financial Rules and regulations are being reviewed to ensure proper accounting systems. No doubt as we transition in this period of the restructuring of the African Union organs and specialized committees and agencies, we must retain our value adding status as institution in order to continue to remain relevant.

Let us then as AMCOW Ministers prepare ourselves to engage better in building AMCOW as an institution that has a veritable role to play even more today even as we take into consideration the greater challenges that face the sector in view of the expectations inherent in the Sustainable Development Goal 6. A good place to start is for us to be part of future AMCOW engagements and activities which will be presented to us in this closed session.

The critical issue for us to meet and share ideas around the global events as organised by our partners, which some of them are either organised for us, or we organise to ensure we are included in the global water agenda. We need to meet in advance and develop our own African position to influence the global water agenda.

I would like to applaud the work of technical tasks teams who worked closely with AMCOW Secretariat and partners to develop and launch the Africa web-based monitoring and reporting system for water sector and sanitation and linked to the global monitoring processes and efforts to strengthen and institutionalize harmonised monitoring and reporting system at member states, sub-regional, and basin levels to report on actions taken to implement these High Level Declarations including Durban Political Declaration commitments.

Lastly we need to take ownership of our programme and projects and encourage Government through African Union Commission (AUC) to prioritise Water and Sanitation as central to Africa's Economic Development and growth and designate AMCOW as the Technical Advisory Committee within AU Specialised Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment to champion the implementation and monitoring of SDG 6 (ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) in the continent.

I thank you and welcome.