



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**REMARKS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AND
SANITATION**

HON. PAMELA TSHWETE

**ON OCCASION OF THE COCKTAIL FUNCTION AT THE GRAND
HOTEL, STOCKHOLM**

26 August 2018

Programme Director
Charge d' Affaires: Mr Duncan Sebefelo
Our Sponsor, TCTA
Water Utilities Present
Fellow Africans
Our friends and partners
Ladies and gentlemen
All protocol observed

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, as 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 Kwame Nkrumah, Patrice Lumumba, Chief Moshodi Abiola among others who dedicated their lives in fighting colonialism in and around Africa.

Colonialism was not simply an economic system. Rather, it was a complete disruption of societal structures as well as economic exploitation. Depending upon the colonial power, the society was ignored, destroyed, or replaced.

The effects of colonialism past and present are still visible all over Africa. Africa is sadly torn away from her past, propelled into a universe fashioned from outside that suppresses her values. Our continent is dumbfounded by a cultural invasion

that marginalises her, the African of today is merely a deformed image of others.”

There are 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 them 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; the wise control of her raw materials; as well the effective use of her human resources. Quality education is the key to creating, owning and controlling Africa’s wealth and mentally decolonising her people’s captured minds.

Thirdly, as the water community, we need to cooperate amongst ourselves in the following areas:

- Management in the field of utilisation and protection of water resources
- Transboundary 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;

Water experts, practitioners, decision-makers, business innovators and young professionals from a range of sectors and countries come to Stockholm to network, exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions to the most pressing water-related challenges of today. We believe water is key to our future prosperity, and that together, we can achieve a water wise world.

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.

The main questions:

- Why are we here?
- What did we gain from last year's World Water Week?

We need 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

There is a need for us as team South Africa to meet, and discuss what we have learned here and how we are going to implement in South Africa.

I thank you