



INTERNET ARTICLE

Balzer emphasises the need for partnerships in the water sector post Covid-19

17 November 2020

The Acting Director-General for the Department of Water and Sanitation, Trevor Balzer has called for renewed partnerships in the water sector post the Corona virus pandemic. Balzer was speaking during the 6th Annual Water Stewardship Conference which was organised by the Strategic Water Partners Network (SWPN) on Tuesday, 17 November 2020.

Giving opening remarks during the conference, Balzer said: “We are gathered here as partners who share a common vision of an inclusive society that seek to ensure partnerships aimed at achieving water security by 2030, in particular, SDG6 on achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.”

He said that government and the Department of Water and Sanitation in particular, is committed to work with the private sector and civil society to convene solutions faced by the sector in order to improve the provision of water to citizens of the country.

“Our government is a government of the people which does not compete with the private sector. It collaborates with the private sector to bring about sustainable solutions to challenges that face our people,” Balzer said.

Balzer said the theme of the conference was timely as it talks directly to the challenges that the water sector is going through presently and it resonates with the vision of the Water and Sanitation Master Plan that aims to ensure sustainable infrastructure as among others, a pillar for water security.

Also speaking during the virtual conference was Mike Muller, Wits University School of Governance Professor said now more than ever, “we need to learn how to priorities our limited natural resources such as water by using it prudently.”

The conference was held under the theme “**Good governance for green recovery – Stewardship in a post Covid-19 water sector.**” It unpacked measures that need to be taken to create robust governance for sustainable recovery while at the same time, looking at the much needed water investments to support a post-COVID-19 green recovery.

The Annual Water Stewardship Conference has been running for six consecutive years and brings together representatives from government, industry, civil society and development partners to explore how investments in South Africa’s water sector can be leveraged to generate sustained economic growth, employment, and wellbeing for all South Africans.

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