

INTERNET ARTICLE

Minister Mchunu calls for more private sector collaboration as SWPN marked its 10th anniversary

23 March 2022

The Department of Water and Sanitation celebrated its 10th anniversary partnership with Strategic Water Partners Network (SWPN), a multi-sector coordination platform of private sector companies, government and civil society.

This partnership is aimed at finding solutions for the country's most pressing water challenges. Its focal areas include agricultural supply chains, mines and wastewater management, water conservation and leakage reduction, skills development, sanitation and water stewardship.

Delivering his address during a virtual 10th anniversary celebration, which coincided with World Water Day, the Minister of Water and Sanitation Mr Senzo Mchunu put a lot of emphasis on the utilisation and management of groundwater, this was propelled by this year's World Water Day theme; ***"Groundwater - Making the invisible, visible"***.

"This year's theme refers to a very important subject on water resources management which is 'groundwater'. Groundwater is invisible, but its impact is visible everywhere. As a department and as a country, we are committed to exploring groundwater as an alternative water source to ensure water security in communities affected by water supply challenges in our country". Minister Mchunu said.

In appreciation of the importance of collaboration between the public, private and civil society organizations, Minister Mchunu called for further public and private partnership with a view to strengthen collaboration, improve utilization of groundwater resources as well as preventing pollution for a groundwater.

Furthermore, Minister Mchunu reiterated the Department of Water and Sanitation's commitment as a sector leader to this partnership and indicated that the Department will continue to support the SWPN to ensure that it becomes a flagship programme from which other countries may be able to learn from.

Concluding his keynote address, Minister Mchunu pointed out that participation by the big multinational brands on this platform gives hope that one day all the water users will become members of the SWPN and work with together towards water security for all.

"As a caring government, we do not compete with you as the private sector, instead, we create a conducive environment for the private sector to operate, thrive, grow the economy and create jobs. It is for that reason that this platform must ensure that we guard against the duplication of services. The duplication of roles and responsibilities leads to inefficiencies and wastage of the scarce resources". Minister Mchunu affirmed.

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