



water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Developmental water resources management key for poverty reduction

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Keeping in mind that Africa is a continent coming from the shadows of colonialism and apartheid, women and men from across Africa have decided that pragmatism rather than principles need to be the focal point of developmental water resources management. This breakthrough in empowerment was made as Minister of Water and Sanitation Nomvula Mokonyane and her Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete engaged with other water sector Ministers and stakeholders from across the continent and abroad during the on-going Gender, Water and Development Conference in East London.

Delegates agreed that it is necessary to work in partnership with the countries and organizations involved in other goals of food security, risk management, energy, sustainable cities, health and ecosystems, to ensure that targets related to water will be linked to these goals.

Ministers present in the conference adopted and signed a declaration on Wednesday 5 November 2014 which amongst other things considers the equitable and sustainable use and protection of the world's freshwater resources a key challenge facing governments on the road to a safer, more peaceful, equitable and prosperous world. The declaration further confirms the Ministers' resolve to reach the International Development Targets agreed by the UN Millennium Summit, in particular the target to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty and to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water. Combating poverty is the main challenge for achieving equitable and sustainable development, and water plays a vital role in relation to human health, livelihood, and economic growth, the declaration emphasized.

Minster Mokonyane emphasized the part of the declaration that urges the private sector to join the government and civil society to contribute to bringing water and sanitation services to the un-served as well as to strengthen investment and management capabilities. Adding that privately managed service delivery should not imply private ownership of water resources and that service providers should be subject to effective regulation and monitoring.

Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete who has been present since the beginning of the conference and was leading its preparations stated that she was more interested in projects that women in rural poverty stricken areas have initiated in a bid to curb water shortages thus



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reducing poverty. She says the conference provided a platform for these women's voices to be heard and also recognised their efforts in water conservation and management.

Maduvha Maseda

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