



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

SADC countries work together to resolve problems over limited water resources

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On Friday, 09 December 2016, Water and Sanitation Minister, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane hosted Water Ministers from Lesotho, Botswana and Namibia during the Orange-Senqu River Basin Commission (ORASECOM) meeting.

The meeting held at Emperors Palace in Kempton Park discussed the progress on achieving the goals set out in the Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IWRM) as well as channels to resolve problems over limited water resources.

Speaking at the meeting Minister Mokonyane said “I am pleased to realise that, the ORASECOM States have found ways to resolve problems over limited water resources even before they occur and together have found ways to promote integrated development and fight poverty and water related diseases.”

Through this commission 14, 3 million people living in the riparian communities in the basin as well as 5 additional million inhabitants in South Africa located outside the basin, will benefit from its water resources through water transfer schemes. The basin water resources development will also improve livelihoods and gender socio-economic growth of the four countries involved in this project through climate resilient water resources development.

The challenges of food security, poverty eradication, sustainable energy production inefficiencies in water use, as well as inequality in access to water due to historical injustices of the past are concerning to each country. Minister Nomvula Mokonyane however said “we have indeed collectively invested a lot of resources and energy into solving these problems”.

It is also through effectively practicing the adage that says: “water knows no boundaries” where countries are able to work together through the sharing of information and expertise for solving water related engineering, legal, environmental, political, social and economic challenges that the problems over limited water resources can be fully addressed.

“I would like to conclude by encouraging the entire ORASECOM Family to continue to develop and implement all the necessary interventions and actions that uplift our people out of poverty and inequality” said Minister Mokonyane

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