



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Water for Sustainable growth at SIWI World Water Week, Stockholm**

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This year 26th annual World Water Week hosted by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) in Stockholm, Sweden, received more than 3000 participants from all over the world.

About 1.5 billion people around the world have no access to water and sanitation and according to the World Economic Forum in their 2016 Global risk report, water crises have been identified globally as the most important concern for this coming decade.

The SIWI World Water Week aims to act as a platform for knowledge sharing and networking involving science, business, policy making and civil society. The hosting of the Stockholm Water prize and the World Water Week began in 1991.

This year, Minister Mokonyane led the South African delegation which included the South African Youth Water Prize winners from the Free State. This team is set to represent South Africa as one of the most innovative countries in the world in terms of water conservation and water demand management. The international Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition brings together the world's brightest young scientists to encourage their continued interest in water and the environment.

Shortly after the official opening of the World Water Week, Minister Nomvula Mokonyane declared the South African water sector exhibition stand officially open when she cut the ribbon, honouring this prestigious occasion. The Department of Water and Sanitation and TCTA manned the South African Water sector stand.

Under the theme *Water for sustainable growth*, this year's World Water Week will echo and follow up the United Nations' "water and jobs" theme in a broader context of sustainable growth.

Water, being at the core of sustainable development, was well reflected in the 2030 agenda by the United Nations as a fundamental right for a universal and equitable access to safe drinking water and dignified sanitation by 2030. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 is an universal goal for water that will ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The goal further highlights the universal and equitable access to safe drinking water for all.

The SIWI World Water Week programme engagements will feature numerous focuses per day, which the global community will thrash out to find resolutions to water threats.

By Katlego Mokaila

