



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### Private sector urged to invest in water infrastructure

29 October 2019

Investment in water infrastructure and sanitation new technologies took center stage on the first day of 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week commemoration that kick-started in Libreville, Gabon on Monday, 29 October 2018.

Speaker after speaker pulled no punches in decrying the state of affairs in the African continent in the provision of water and sanitation services and the central message was the need for governments not to work in isolation if the current status quo is to change.

This commemorative week, spearheaded by African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) will end on 02 November 2018 and it is themed “**Toward Achieving Water Security and Safely Managed Sanitation for Africa**”.

Delivering the opening address, AMCOW Executive Secretary, Mr Canisius Kanangire cautioned that lack of water in the continent need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. He added that, water challenges in Africa, will exacerbate the current economic challenges faced by the continent and many people are going to suffer.

“We need to stop talking and start implementing the decisions that continue to be taken to improve the lives of the people in the continent”, he emphasized.

Minister of Water and Irrigation in Tanzania, Professor Makame Mnyaa Mbarawa said member states are faced with lack of funding from the private sector, rapid population growth and urbanization. To deal with the current challenges, he pointed out that, private sector come on board and work with government and not be spectators as water is everyone’s business.

On Wednesday, Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister, Ms Pamela Tshwete is expected to make a contribution on Accelerating Investments in Water Infrastructure Through Project Preparation in Africa. This is in line with Africa Water Investment Programme championed by South Africa, Mauritius and Senegal through the United Nations’ High Level Panel on Water.

Deputy Minister is also expected to lead discussions on sanitation by sharing South Africa’s milestones and the plan to tackle the outstanding backlog.

AMCOW has used the Africa Water Week to convene its 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly where topical issues will be discussed while Tanzania will be handing over the presidency to Gabon.