



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS launch Development Cooperation of Partners Platform as part of World Water Day 2019

26 March 2019

Acting Director-General (DG), Ms Deborah Mochotlhi launched the Development Cooperation of Partners Platform on behalf of Minister Gugile Nkwinti, as part of the Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) commemoration of World Water Day on Friday, 22 March 2019 in Pretoria at the Sheraton Hotel.

World Water Day was commemorated under the theme **"Leaving no one behind, Water for all"** and is dedicated to highlight the importance of freshwater and to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources

To observe the day, the department launched the Development Cooperation of Partners Platform which seeks to enhance collaborative efforts in support of the DWS's initiative towards achieving universal access to water and sanitation by 2030.

Speaking during the launch, Acting DG Mochotlhi said the department was pleased to have the Development Partners on the Platform which includes the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), the embassies of Japan, Russia, and Spain amongst others.

She said the Platform will enhance the work that still needs to be carried forward to achieve the National Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030.

"There is a lot that we need to do as a country to achieve all the targets by 2030. Being part and working together with the Development Partners will help gear us in the right direction," said Acting DG Mochotlhi.

She further emphasised that the Platform will not serve to replace the Strategic Water Sector Leadership Group, but will work to enhance the work of the department and to achieve the ideals of 2030.

The launch coincided with a Media Networking Breakfast by the department which saw in-depth discussions on Water Stewardship and Water Quality in South Africa by global and national experts in the water sector.

Joining the discussion was Minister Nkwinti, who reflected on the matter of water quality saying that pollution is the biggest threat to the country's water quality.

"It is about time that there is behavioural change and the reshaping of thinking towards water issues among our communities. We need to train and inform people for them to understand the importance of water quality," Minister Nkwinti said.





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Also speaking during the launch was Dr Cryton Zazu of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), who gave a progress report on the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG-6). Dr Zazu impressed upon the role of African countries in working towards achieving Goal 6 which calls for clean water and sanitation for all.

“Although only one in five countries globally are yet to convey progress towards achieving SDG 6, two African countries, namely South Africa and Botswana, have shown significant progress in this regard,” said Dr Zazu.

Lebogang Maseko



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



DWS_RSA