



INTERNET ARTICLE

World Water Day Media Networking Breakfast addresses Water Quality and Stewardship in South Africa

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) hosted a Media Networking Breakfast discussing Water Stewardship and Water Quality in South Africa as part of its annual commemoration of World Water Day on Friday, 22 March 2019.

The discussions were led by international and national water experts from the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), World Wide Fund SA (WWF) and the Water Research Commission (WRC) amongst others.

Speaking on both panel discussions focusing on Water Stewardship and Water Quality in South Africa, Dr Desighen Naidoo, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Water Research Commission (WRC), identified polluted water as among the world's top five commodities that posed a serious threat to the global economy.

Dr Naidoo said that big businesses were among the biggest polluters who dumped untreated effluent into the rivers.

"Municipalities therefore must invoke the National Water Act to start billing big businesses for polluting the country's rivers," said Dr Naidoo.

In addition, Minister Gugile Nkwinti said a resolution to the thousands of informal settlements that stretch along South Africa's rivers must be considered in order to deal with the problem of rampant water pollution in the country.

Minister Nkwinti singled out pollution as the biggest threat to the country's water quality.

Gavin Watson, Head of Centre Cooperation with the Private Sector for the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) conveyed a World Water Day message of support from the Developmental Partners.

He stressed that South Africa and Germany will work together and both countries appreciate the value of water. He also highlighted the importance of Water Stewardship and the need to safeguard jobs in the water sector. He said both countries need to improve strategic collaboration.

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

Thabang Molai

