



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **SADC water dialogue commits to move from rhetoric to concrete action**

**22 November 2017**

The Southern African Development Community's (SADC's) Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue on Tuesday, 21 November 2017, committed itself to move beyond rhetoric to action through delivery of concrete projects to ordinary citizens.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue, which is taking place at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg, is hosted by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) on behalf SADC.

The dialogue is held under the theme: Water Development in SADC-Fostering Regional Value Chains and Job Creation through the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Approaches”.

The dialogue provides a platform for water, energy, food and economic and gender policymakers to practitioners to develop strategies to ensure that nexus approaches contribute to fostering regional value chains and job creation.

Opening the 8<sup>th</sup> SADC Multi-Stakeholder Water Dialogue held at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg, DWS's International Water Support Deputy Director-General, Ms Lindiwe Lusenga, said the collaboration between three sectors offered the opportunity to tackle the region's developmental Agenda.

“To supply water to various needs, energy is key. To attain food security, water is required through irrigation, stock watering and agro-processing,” Ms Lusenga said.

Ms Lusenga urged delegates that it was important that the Dialogue benefited women, the youth and ordinary people by encouraging the industrial partners to be part of the water sector value chain.

Delivering a keynote address on SADC Regional Development Priorities and the Nexus Approach, Mr Remmy Makumbe, highlighted the key SADC priorities as industrialisation, infrastructure and food security and how the Water, Energy and Food (WEF) nexus could facilitate optimal delivery of infrastructure.

Mr Makumbe highlighted the important role that the WEF nexus could play in supporting the value chains that have been adopted which included mining, energy, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals and automotive.

SADC's Head of Energy Division, Mr Moses Ntlamelle, said the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap considered energy and water services as key drivers of industrialisation and identified constraints that needed attention for development of these sectors to be effective enablers and catalysts for industrialisation.



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“We are aware that the special United Nations General Assembly and Conference of 2015 endorsed several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) and the SDG 2, 6, 7 and 9 focussing on food security, clean water and sanitation, energy access for all industrialisation agenda,” Mr Ntlamelle said.

He said while adequate supply of WEF was taken for granted in developed countries in Africa it was still a luxury.

**Hosia Sithole**