

**SPEECH BY THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON AT THE YOUNG
WATER PROFESSIONALS (YWPs) CONFERENCE
PRECEEDING THE IWA/ AFWA LEADERSHIP AND CHANGE
MANAGEMENT SUMMIT-KAMPALA**

DECEMBER 12TH 2011

The Guest of Honor, Hon Minister of Water & Environment

The Hon. Deputy Minister, South African Ministry of Water

The IWA Director for Africa

The President AFWA

Development Partners Present

The Chairperson Young Water Professionals

Young Water Professionals Present

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the Young Water Professionals to this conference which is the first of its kind in Uganda. In a special way, we welcome all those who have travelled from afar to be here. Please enjoy the hospitality and comfort of Uganda.

As you are aware, water is a basic right, and therefore its provision is essential for economic growth and development. Therefore to date, we don't take water for granted because its provision is faced with a number of challenges. These include the challenge of dwindling resources, environmental degradation and poor management. To date, Climate change is a new child on the block, which has to be critically reviewed.

In light of the theme of this conference, I therefore wish to commend the Young Water Professionals for having formed this noble group which is geared towards promoting sustainable provision of water and sanitation services.

It is through such fora that you will be able to discuss and deliberate on good practices, research findings and network with each other to build synergies in the water and sanitation sector. We therefore look forward to candid and fruitful deliberations, bringing into play innovative ideas

I wish to point out that the NWSC has over the years gone through a number of fundamental changes which could offer a good foundation for benchmarking and sharing experiences. However, there is no limit to improvement in service delivery. Therefore we in the NWSC are still open to new ideas and innovations.

We applaud the objectives of the Young Water Professionals which include Career development and experience sharing which will lay a firm foundation for the sustainable use of resources for the future generation.

I wish at this juncture to take this opportunity to thank the organisers of this conference for the efforts you put in to ensure that it is successful. I applaud the Young Water Professionals team in the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, who have supported these preparations.

I was informed that they have even taken steps to establish the East Africa Young Water Professionals with support from their counterparts in South Africa, Australia and Netherlands.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of NWSC, I wish to pledge our full support to the efforts geared towards the full establishment of the East Africa Young Water Professionals.

Lastly, I would like to convey my gratitude to the whole Young Water Professionals fraternity present for coming to share your experiences. We trust you and call upon you to come up with viable futuristic resolutions which will help the Water and Sanitation Sector.

To all visitors from abroad, we welcome you once again and please enjoy your stay during the conference.

For God and My Country