

**Message from Dr. Canisius Kanangire**

**Executive Secretary, African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW)**

**on the occasion of World Toilet Day, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018.**

**Theme: *When Nature Calls - How Does Africa Answer?***

For Africa's over 1 billion people, of which more than half have no access to safe sanitation, when nature calls, what really happens? Let's take a moment to think about this.

Each of these people generates an average of 250 grams of faeces. Each gram of faeces has 1000 parasite cysts, 1 million bacteria, 50 diseases, 100 worm eggs and 10 million viruses. This means that many kilograms of the faeces are released with their content into the ecosystem in which people live, work and play, and cause inconvenience, discomfort, diseases and deaths. In addition to this, there are huge economic losses amounting to billions of dollars and huge losses in school days which has long term negative consequences.

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