



31 March 2022

Let's protect this scarce resource

The Water Month campaign, spearheaded by the Department of Water and Sanitation, is ending this week but the spotlight on water-related issues will still linger on after this month.

Water Month has put a number of issues under the spotlight, including ground water, infrastructure maintenance, water reticulation and consistent water supply to communities.

Then there is water pollution, infrastructure malfunctioning and vandalism. The effects of these are felt by you and I.

Ask anyone from Sebokeng in the Vaal and they will tell you about their experience of living with a sewer in their backyards. Their experiences will reduce you to tears or make you explode in anger.

On Wednesday, 23 March, Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister David Mahlobo went

to visit residents of Sebokeng zone 10 to assess the progress made by Rand Water in stopping sewer spillages in the area. The vast difference made after Rand Water

took over as the implementing agent to stop the long-standing issues of sewer spillages in households, streets and leading into Vaal River, has brought a ray of sunshine to people in the Vaal.

It is without a doubt that the Department of Water and Sanitation is pulling its weight and I admit, there is still a long way to go to address these issues.

You and I also have a major role to play in preserving water, stopping pollution and reporting infrastructure vandalism. The truth is, we know who the vandals are in our communities. We know where they live.

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■ *Lebogang, Maseko*