

OPINION

Water conservation key to reliable and sustainable supply

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WATER is life. It is central to every aspect of life, and every living creature needs water to survive.

Basically, we cannot live without water as it has no substitute.

South Africa is a water scarce country and climate change is having a negative effect on water availability and water resources. As we need water to survive, the onus lies with us to ensure that the available water and water resources are sustainable to keep providing us with the source of life. We need to play our part in ensuring water supply security, it is in our hands.

The best way to ensure water supply security for our current and future generations is basically for us to be responsible citizens and water users.

We need to treat water with the utmost respect it deserves as the source of life which has no substitute.

We need to have a positive mindset towards water which will lead to positive actions and behaviour preventing the wastage and loss of precious water in our communities.

Water conservation is the key to water supply security in this water scarce country. Everyone can conserve water, from individuals in households to businesses and industries. The best and simplest way to conserve water is to practise the three Rs – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We need to reduce our water consumption and use enough water for that particular purpose, like not filling the kettle to the brim just for one cup of tea. Water can be used multiple times before it becomes unfit for use, so let us reuse water, like using grey water for flushing toilets and to water our plants.

Water recycling also helps to conserve water as the same water is used again and again which relieves the



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stress on water systems and water resources. Businesses and industries can recycle the water they use and reuse it again without always tapping into the municipal system.

If our mindset is focused on water conservation, we will always use water wisely and sparingly as we will always remember that every drop counts and

there is no substitute for water. Our actions and behaviour will determine if we do not run out of the source of life, so it is crucial that we are always responsible in our water use.

Water conservation means preventing water wastage and losses. Responsible behaviour will ensure that there is no wastage of the precious resource.

It is important that we fix all leaks as they are the major causes of water losses. We must quickly report all pipe bursts and water leaks in the municipal systems for the authorities to attend to the problem and prevent further wastage and loss. The authorities must also be quick in their turnaround time to fix water infrastructure.

Being a responsible citizen means knowing who to contact to report water and sanitation challenges, so let us all have the contact and emergency numbers of our municipalities. Pollution negatively affects the

quality of water, thus making water not fit for use, so let us be responsible citizens and prevent the polluting of our water resources. Let us stop people using water resources as dumping sites.

Stop water infrastructure vandalism as it leads to major water losses and causes those in high-lying areas not to get reliable water supply. Infrastructure vandalism, such as illegal connections, leads to pipeline leaks which leads to major water losses.

Infrastructure vandalism defeats the purpose of water conservation, so let us be responsible citizens and protect our water and sanitation infrastructure from vandalism. Let us also report those carrying out acts of vandalism to the authorities because vandalism happens in our communities.

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