



31 March 2022

## Save every precious drop in Water Month

THE water scarcity facing our country hampers the government's ability to fulfil citizens' fundamental right of access to adequate, clean water. However, nothing impedes the right of access to water more than the lack of appreciation and value for our ever-depleting water resources.

Water shortages have a great impact on human health and the environment. For this reason the Water and Sanitation Department will observe March as Water Month, and National Water Week from March 20-26, against the backdrop of World Water Day on March 22.

The National Water Week campaign is aimed at educating the public about their responsibility in water conservation and the need to protect the country's water resources.

Each year, the UN sets a theme for World Water Day. This year's theme is "Groundwater – making the invisible, visible", serving to remind the nation that South Africa is a water scarce country. Surface water, the traditional source for bulk supply, is becoming more limited; groundwater, an invisible resource, feeds springs, rivers, lakes and wetlands, and can be extracted.

The department seeks to highlight the role of the public to safeguard and protect the country's limited water resources. Communities are responsible for

protecting their drinking water by conserving the amount of water used, and learning ways to prevent water supply from becoming contaminated. By doing nothing to help stop the irresponsible use of water and polluting this precious resource, we are all equally guilty.

The amount of water used by people as part of their everyday activities has risen dramatically. During droughts and water shortages, some communities have water restrictions, but it should not only happen in emergencies. Conserving water should be an everyday practice. Use less water and get involved to protect drinking water sources from contamination.

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