



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### Conservation key to water security

28 March 2024

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Mpumalanga Provincial Operations closed the National Water Week on 26 March 2024 with an awareness session with Eskom employees at Kendal Power Station.

The awareness session was meant to remind the officials of the importance of water conservation and the protection of water resources for water security for the current and future generations, especially as South Africa is a water scarce and one of the driest countries in the world.

The awareness session started with a video clip showcasing water saving tips and the importance of water conservation to remind the audience of the critical tips that they can implement to save water in their households, the workplace and in everything they do.

The session was opened by the General Manager of Kendal Power Station, Ms Tshepiso Temo who encouraged active participation by all.

Mr Themba Khoza from DWS Mpumalanga outlined the importance of the National Water Week / Month and World Water Day. He stated that South Africa celebrates the National Water Month annually from 1 to 31 March. "National Water Month is South Africa's expansion of the World Water Day which is observed annually on 22 March and focuses its attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The National Water Month focuses on educating the public about their responsibility in water conservation initiatives and also raises awareness around the need to protect and conserve the country's water resources".

In relation to the 2024 theme "**Water for Peace**", he stated that we are reminded of the importance of water in fostering peace and stability among communities and nations. This theme aims to galvanise communities all over the world to share water resources to enhance peace instead of conflict. Thus, the theme entails that water can be a tool for peace when communities and countries cooperate over this precious shared resource, but water can also spark and intensify conflict when access is denied and usage unfairly shared. When water is scarce or polluted, or when people have unequal, or no access, tensions can rise between communities and countries.

**SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY**





## water & sanitation

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“In South Africa, World Water Day is more than significant as it comes immediately after the celebration of Human Rights Day. World Water Day is so significant as access to water is a basic human right”, he further stated.

He further reminded the officials that water conservation and the protection of water resources is everybody’s business as South Africa being a water scarce country cannot afford to lose precious water as every drop counts as water has no substitute. “We need to identify and fix leaks in our households and also report leaks in the bulk systems to the municipalities and any other responsible authorities because leaks are one of the major causes of water loss. In the leaflets I have shared, you will find water saving tips and also ways to identify leaks in your household”, he said.

Water security is in our hands and depends on our responsible behaviour and actions as every drop counts as water has no substitute.

**Themba Khoza**

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Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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