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Access to water vital to reduce abuse

WATER is life as it is basically central to every aspect of life. It is critical that every person has access to water for basic needs. As we commemorate 16 Days of Activism against Women and Child Abuse, it is crucial that we look at the role of the lack of access to reliable water supply in women and child abuse.

Not all South Africans have access to water from taps in their houses. Even some of those with taps in their households sometimes have to go out of their households to get water due to different challenges like water rationing or challenges with the supply systems and limited water supply due to drought. In rural areas, community members have to collect water from water tankers or from rivers and streams.

The onus of ensuring water availability in the household then rests with women and girls. This exposes them to abuse if it happens there is no water, as they are seen as collectors of water and have to make sure there is always some in the household.

Collecting water exposes women to physical abuse at the hands of preying criminals who see them as easy targets. It is important that government fulfils its mandate of access to water by ensuring reliable supply closer to these wonderful women of our country.

Government must accelerate water provision projects to ensure communities have access to water.

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