

# Stop with greed to help country succeed

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PROFESSOR of Philosophy at the University of Toronto, Paul W Gooch, recently opined that we human beings are a greedy lot, quoting the proverbial saying, "the root of all evil is the love of money".

In his article, he quoted at length the Greek philosopher, Plato who 24 centuries ago argued that human beings were driven by an excess of bodily desire to accumulate stuff well beyond their needs. In an effort to satisfy this basic greed, society becomes complex and stratified, and wealth is unevenly distributed, leading to internal strife and to war.

You would swear that Gooch had South Africa in mind when he wrote this article, judging by what is dominating the news recently as greed has reared its ugly head time and time again.

A reader would be forgiven for thinking that the inference is to the infamous personal protective equipment or the so-called covipreneurs, mushrooming like parasites to suck the remaining blood off the most vulnerable without any shame.

The water sector and the innocent community members have, over time, faced the full might of these scavengers who are hell-bent on destroying all the water infrastructure in place to the detriment of the larger populace to solely score big emergency contracts or tenders.

We have seen this phenomenon in some areas and recently QwaQwa is the case in point. What else could this be other than greed and criminality?

To further illustrate greed, the Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Department at some point has had to issue a stern warning to some service providers who felt entitled

to be sole providers of water tanks across the country. At the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent announcement by Minister Lindiwe Sisulu that there would be a massive roll-out of 40 000 water tanks to water-stressed communities, some were waiting to hit a jackpot.

The minister revealed her office had received information that some business people were sabotaging the delivery of water tanks by government.

"It is highly regrettable that in Bodile, Lichtenburg, according to the report we received, some business people emptied our new water tankers that were supplied by government to ensure business is given to them. It has become abundantly clear that some people who felt that they should have profited are now sabotaging the process," Sisulu said at the time.

The fact that people can empty a water tanker with litres of water,

a scarce resource in the middle of a deadly pandemic, demonstrates how unscrupulous and inhumane some people can be.

"Greed has no conscience for social justice; it grows fat and bloated, but does not share with the needy," says Prof Gooch.

The water sector is the backbone of this country's development.

The government, through the Presidential Infrastructure Co-ordinating Commission, has taken bold steps to invest in infrastructure and the water sector has been prioritised with the announcement that 10 water projects will be implemented in earnest. The implementation of these projects will come in handy to the current infrastructure in a state of decay and will ensure water security for the country.

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