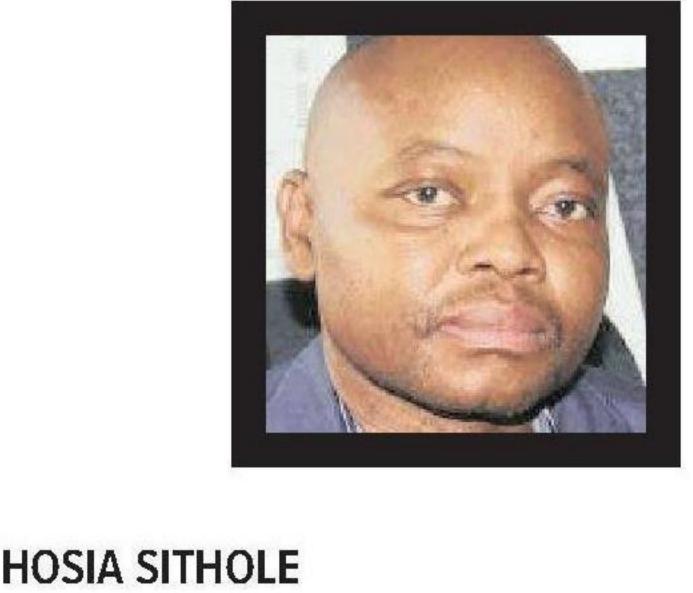
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COMMENT



ACHIEVING SDG 6

THE growing spread of the Covid-19 pandemic risks interfering with the implementation of a number of global development interventions, particu-

AMID COVID-19

(SDG) 6 as adopted by the UN. Four years after the adoption of SDG 6, South Africa and other developing nations have not only embraced the goal but had to do more with little resources to make a meaningful impact on the lives of their people.

The outbreak of Covid-19 has not

made the lives of many people in

larly Sustainable Development Goal

developing countries easier nor has it

presented the opportunity for them to meet their targets because of the competing financial intervention priorities that have been laid bare by the raging pandemic. SDG 6 is one of 17 which provide a common plan and agenda to tackle some of the pressing challenges facing the world, including poverty, climate change and conflict.

itation is not confined to SDG 6 but rather plays a key role within all other SDGs and the entire programme. September last year marked a key milestone as the first reporting cycle wherein participating countries

produced a country report which

highlighted progress regarding all

17 SDGs, including 6, towards the

Indeed, the issue of water and san-

2030 goal. Doing more with little resources, South Africa managed to record some good progress which put it on some firm ground in the face of the pandemic. More specifically, SDG 6 has eight targets that must be reported on to the UN and these are key to achieving

the overall goal of the SDG 6 by 2030.

nents such as safe drinking water for

These targets cover sector compo-

all, sanitation, better water quality, increased water use efficiency, integrated water management, protection and restoration of ecosystems, international co-operation and local participation. The targets contain 11 indicators given to South Africa by the UN, but

with an opportunity for the indicators

to be domesticated within the South

African context. This has already been addressed. To facilitate the implementation of the SDG6 programme, the Department of Water Sanitation's SDG 6 Working Group has been established within the Branch Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. The group is an overarching forum

that provides strategic direction to

various task teams of the different

tutionalising the SDG 6, the depart-

ment had to work towards chang-

Of critical importance, by insti-

ing the inevitable results of a society that frowned on the culture of human rights. The department has over the last three years worked hard to gear itself towards dealing with the dreadful previous disproportionate development that has sidelined

In this way, the department carved

out clear guidelines and targets in

accordance with the priorities of the

country and the environmental chal-

many communities.

SDG 6 targets.

lenges of the world at large. In addressing the myriad challenges that the SDG 6 seeks to resolve, the department has done far more than setting itself up to achieve significant numbers but to make a material

for resale or retransmission.

difference in improving the lives of the people. The motto "Leaving No One Behind" is engraved within the precept of the SDG 6 programme besides driving the message that all sector partners are responsible and accountable for reaching the country's objectives.

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