

Every precious drop counts in this water-scarce land

SOUTH Africa is water-scarce – one of the driest countries in the world. Every drop counts.

Climate change is adding to the water security challenge by negatively impacting on water availability through drastic weather changes leading to reduced rainfall and high evaporation. This calls for every citizen to use available water in a wise, sparing and conservative manner.

One major problem that is sometimes not given the attention and urgency it deserves is water losses. Many litres are lost daily through

losses in the bulk supply systems and in households, meaning billions of rand are lost every year.

South Africa experiences major water losses in most municipalities through leakages and pipe bursts, causing non-revenue water which means loss of water and finances for the municipality. What makes the situation worse is the delays in repairing the affected pipelines leading to purified clean water going to waste for a prolonged period. The other challenge is the reluctance to fix leakages until they become major problems.

Another problem is the poor maintenance of infrastructure in municipalities. The waste water treatment plants' malfunction leads to the discharge of raw sewage into water resources.

The government must prioritise water infrastructure development and maintenance and ensure quick turn-around times to fix leaks and pipe bursts.

The public must report any infrastructure malfunction and pressure the authorities to fix it.

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