

## Let's join forces to save water and lives

AS WE are in the winter season, most parts of the country have already started to experience minimum, or no rainfall. This as Covid-19 is sweeping the country, with more people losing their lives daily.

Central to the fight against this virus is ensuring adequate hygiene, where the World Health Organization has advised that

the washing of hands with soap regularly is key to reducing the rapid spread of the virus.

It is unavoidable and fair for people to question water availability in the country, particularly in water-stressed areas.

One question, among many others, is how to balance the washing of hands regularly while at the same time using water for normal house chores, agricultural and industrial purposes and then being expected to save water. This is while taking into consideration that South Africa is rated among the driest countries in the world.

The time has arrived, and that time is now, that all human beings, irrespective of race and gender, unite under the umbrella theme, "Save water and save lives". Everyone

needs water to survive.

The government has pulled out all stops to make sure everyone has portable water access, be it tap water, groundwater or tank-supplied water in rural and informal settlements. The ball is in our court now; either we change our behaviour or face the consequences of water supply shortage.

That will result in water rationing – a lesson learnt by the City of Cape Town, threatened by "Day Zero". The only city in Mzansi surrounded by two oceans – the Atlantic and the Indian – which nonetheless experienced the worst water shortage.

Every drop counts; we need your helping hand to save water.

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