

Make a commitment to use water wisely

WHILE progress has been made in increasing access to clean drinking water and sanitation, many people, mostly in rural areas, lack these basic services.

Worldwide, one in three people do not have access to safe drinking water, two out of five people do not have a basic hand-washing facility with soap and water, and more than 673 million practice open defecation.

The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the critical importance of sanitation, hygiene and adequate access to clean water for preventing and containing diseases.

While the government continues to plan and invest in infrastructure to ensure a secure, diversified and sustainable supply of water, South Africans must play their part and use water wisely.

This year, Heritage Month is celebrated under the theme "Celebrating South Africa's Living Human Treasures", which means celebrating the bearers of our indigenous knowledge systems. Hence, when working together, we can preserve our precious water resource.

The goal is for each of us to take ownership of and be proactive in transforming the water journey, not just in the September, but lifelong.

There needs to be a change in attitude and behaviour to use water wisely. Efficient water use safeguards a reliable supply, which, in turn, progresses the quality of life of all South Africans, and promotes economic development.

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