

# OPINION PIECE

---

## Deputy Minister Mahlobo sends a stern warning against illegal water use

02 December 2021

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation Mr David Mahlobo has sent a stern warning against illegal water use, while also reiterating government's commitment to enhance the provision of water to affected communities in different parts of the country.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo was speaking during the National Assembly question and answer session on Wednesday, 01 December 2021. He said the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is mandated by the constitution to provide water for all citizens and was working tirelessly to ensure it upholds its constitutional mandate.

"The constitution implores us that water is a right and it is a right to life. Therefore, it is uncalled for to waste or block water from others. South Africa is a water scarce country and every drop of water should be shared equitably," he said.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo also called on Water Use Associations, Irrigation Boards and Water Services Authorities to report unauthorised water use which includes the building of illegal dams.

"The illegal building of dams is concerning because in most cases, we do not even know the materials used to build those dams. It goes without saying that this has a detrimental effect on other water users and the ecosystem. The areas of concern are in the Western Cape in Breede Gouritz and in Limpopo and Mpumalanga Provinces," said Deputy Minister Mahlobo.

He added that the Department through its Compliance, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, is making significant progress to ensure transgressors are held accountable through regular dam safety inspections and proactive investigations where illegal dam owners are directed to demolish the illegal dams.

"We report cases of illegal dams to authorities as mandated by law. There are about 174 cases reported to law enforcement agencies and some are in various stages of internal engineering assessments by DWS engineers for successful prosecution," added Deputy Minister Mahlobo.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo urged members of the public to report illegal water use and infrastructure vandalism to local authorities as the Department continues with the effective implementation of bulk water projects across the country.

**WATER IS LIFE – SANITATION IS DIGNITY**

**SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER SCARCE COUNTRY**



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**End**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

**For more information, contact Sputnik Ratau, Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation on 082 874 2942**

**For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal at:**  
**[www.dws.gov.za](http://www.dws.gov.za)**