

Let's all take care of water

South Africa is a water-scarce country, where every drop counts.

Water has no substitute. Without it, there is no life for all known living species on the planet.

Here is one easy way of determining the water quality: death of aquatic life in our water sources is a clear sign of trouble with water quality, so let us be vigilant and responsible citizens who regularly monitor and protect our water courses.

Pollution is a major threat to water quality and water security.

Regular monitoring of our water sources will help ensure their protection from pollution.

Through regular water monitoring and testing, we are more likely to detect and identify quality challenges and then take appropriate steps.

Pollution is a human-made threat to water quality that can be easily identified and detected in water sources.

It is critical that we all become responsible citizens and protect our water sources. This means preventing sewage spillages and never using them as dumping sites.

Today, September 18, is World Water Monitoring Day, an international day aimed at building public awareness and involvement in regularly monitoring of our water sources.

But, as much as we monitor and test water quality in our water sources, let us also learn to monitor the quality of water in our households.

This is important to prevent waterborne diseases and ensure healthy communities and a vibrant society.

Without clean, safe and quality water, there can be no healthy and happy communities.

The Constitution states that everyone has the right to an environment that does not harm their health and wellbeing.

It also states that the environment has to be protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

This includes legislative and other measures to prevent pollution and ecological degradation.

The Constitution entrenches our right to a healthy environment and at the same time places the responsibility of protecting the environment in our hands.

It is crucial that we monitor our water sources to ensure that the little water we have left is enough – and good enough – to ensure healthy environments and communities.

Let us monitor and protect our water sources for a sustainable supply of high-quality water for our current and future generations. — **Themba Khoza**, water & sanitation spokesperson

