

...

Importance of water monitoring

WATER is life and central to the socio-economic development of people, communities and countries.

Water is an extremely important source of keeping all living beings alive and well. It is therefore important that we always have access to water of quality standards. This then leads to the importance of regular monitoring the quality of the water in our resources and systems.

Tomorrow is World Water Monitor-

ing Day, and this day is a reminder of the importance of regularly monitoring our water sources.

It is an international day aimed at building public awareness and involvement in understanding the importance of water quality and protecting water sources around the world by empowering citizens to carry out basic monitoring of their local water resources.

Clean, safe and quality water contributes to safe environments and healthy communities. The Constitution states that everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being.

It further states that the environment has to be protected for the benefit of present and future generations through reasonable legislative and other measures that prevent pollution and ecological degradation.

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

Pollution is a major threat to water quality and water sources thereby negatively affecting water security. Regular monitoring of our water sources will ensure their protection from pollution which negatively affects the quality and quantity of water.

Through regular water monitoring and testing, we are more likely to detect and identify quality challenges and then take appropriate steps. Pollution is a man-made threat to water quality and it can be easily identified and detected in water sources.

It is therefore critical that we all become responsible citizens and protect our water sources by not using them as dumping sites and ensuring that we prevent sewer spillages, to ensure quality water in our sources.

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, to ensure that we always have access to clean and quality water.

This is important to prevent water-borne diseases and ensure healthy communities and a vibrant society.

South Africa is a water-scarce country where every drop counts as water has no substitute, therefore it is crucial that we regularly monitor our water sources to ensure that the little water we have is of acceptable quality.

It is our responsibility to ensure healthy environments and communities by regularly monitoring our water sources.

THEMBA KHOZA | Department of Water and Sanitation