



Themba Khoza.

Water and dignified sanitation key to development

Themba Khoza writes:

Water is life and without water we cannot survive.

Access to water is critical for our survival. As not all South Africans have access to piped water in their households, it becomes the burden of women to collect water for their households.

As we celebrated Women's Day on August 9 and Women's Month throughout the month of August, it is important that we focus on women's empowerment and development. This year, Women's Month is celebrated under the theme "Celebrating 30 years of democracy towards women's development".

Water is central to all aspects of life. It is crucial that communities have access to water to relieve women of the challenges of walking long distances and exposure to dangers in order to fetch water for their families. Government is doing its best to bring water closer to communities and this is helping to empower and develop women in the country.

As much as government is doing its part, it is the responsibility of all to work together to ensure women's empowerment and development continues.

Women's development also depends on access to dignified sanitation and hygiene. Access to safe toilets and sanitary pads helps to build confidence among women, especially the girl child, to be able to compete on equal footing with their male counterparts at school.

It's not all about flushing, so it is important that everyone has access to a safe toilet that ensures human dignity. Proper toilets also ensure women's safety, thereby contributing to their development. The government is building proper toilets and has committed to eradicating bucket toilets to ensure people have access to dignified sanitation.

The availability of sanitary products ensures that girls do not lose important school days. Let us support the drives to donate sanitary pads so that no girl child will lose important school days.

Access to water, proper sanitation and hygiene are crucial for women empowerment and development.