

Adopt and protect water resources since South Africa is a dry and water-scarce land

Themba Khoza writes:

South Africa is a dry and water-scarce country.

It is one of the 30 driest countries in the world and receives about half of the world average in terms of rainfall. On top of it all, climate change is a reality and has a negative impact on water resources and availability as a result of high evaporation due to very hot temperatures and unpredictable rain patterns.

All these put South Africa in a tight corner and calls for everyone to prioritise the conservative, wise and sparing use of the available water, to prevent the pollution of water resources, and to prevent unnecessary water losses as every drop counts.

Water is life and has no substitute, which makes it important that we all become responsible citizens and water users to ensure sustainable water supply and security for the current and future generations. The time to take action is now.

Water security is everyone's responsibility. We all have to work together to ensure that we achieve this goal. The situation calls for all South Africans to hold hands and work together towards a common goal.

Leaks have been identified as the major cause of water losses in South Africa. They lead to the loss of precious water, which we

cannot afford. It is therefore critical that we identify, fix and stop all leaks. This is the responsibility of all individuals, governments/municipalities, water service providers and businesses.

Individuals have to identify leaks in their households and fix them to prevent the unnecessary loss of precious purified water. It is also the responsibility of individual citizens to report leaks in the bulk water pipelines to municipalities and water service providers.



Themba Khoza. **Photo: Archives**

Municipalities and water service providers must quickly respond and fix all bulk pipeline leaks.

Water infrastructure maintenance is also important to prevent wastage. Regular maintenance is key to a well-functioning system, therefore municipalities and water service providers must invest in infrastructure maintenance and have dedicated budgets for operations and maintenance.

Water security also calls for the protection of water resources, especially from pollution, which is a threat. Polluted water resources negatively affect water quality, resulting in unhealthy water, which basically reduces the quantity of water fit for use. So it is our responsibility to take care and protect our water resources from being used as dumpsites.

Water security is in our hands. We all have a responsibility in ensuring reliable and sustainable water supply for all. Let us be responsible citizens and prioritise water conservation and the protection of water resources at all times. Let us always remember that water has no substitute, and therefore, create a culture of water conservation in everything we do.

Water conservation and the protection of our water resources is everybody's business, and if we work together, we can prevent the unnecessary wastage and loss of it.