

'Tis the season to be water wise

APART from the Western Cape, most of South Africa receives summer rainfall – which means we are heading into the dry season.

As South Africa is one of the 30 driest countries in the world and receives about half of the world average in terms of rainfall, it is high time that we prioritise the conservative use of precious water to prevent water losses.

Let us remember that every drop counts, as water has no substitute.

We are also faced with the reality of climate change which has a major impact on water availability. Climate change has altered rainfall patterns, which leads to less rain and also brings with it high temperatures, which leads to high evaporation.

This calls for responsibility and behavioural change in our water use to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change.

Water security is in our hands.

Issues at stake

There is plenty that the ordinary citizen can do to ensure the water security of our country, says **THEMBA KHOZA** of the Department of Water and Sanitation

We need to use the available water wisely, sparingly and in a more conservative manner, especially as water resources are shrinking and populations are growing.

Water conservation is everybody's business and if we work together, we can prevent the unnecessary wastage and losses that are threatening our water security.

We must identify all leaks and fix them, to save water in our households and other areas under our responsibility.

As responsible residents, we must also report leaks on the bulk water supply pipes, while the affected municipalities and other authorities responsible for water supply must ensure speedy fixing of the leaks.

We must also protect and prevent the pollution of our water resources as contamination is a major threat to water security.

Advocacy is also important to build responsible and water-savvy communities that value every single drop of water.

It is important that we talk and create awareness about water conservation and make it part of our culture.

The more we talk about it, the more it will be entrenched in our daily lives and become part of our daily routine.



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