

THE STAR OPINION

Always practise water conservation to ensure water for all

PRECIOUS RESOURCE

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Let us also report leaks and pipe bursts to the municipalities and push them to fix the challenges in the shortest time to prevent unnecessary loss of precious water, urges the writer.

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dam, river and stream, which led to the notion that we have enough water.

With the rain gone, it is time to remind each other that South Africa remains a dry and water-scarce country, which calls for every South African to use the available water wisely and sparingly.

Water conservation is vital for ensuring water security for both current and future generations, particularly in a water-scarce country like ours, where every drop matters. We all need to take responsibility and make water conservation a norm in our communities, as a reliable and sustainable water supply and water security rely on our proactive and responsible actions and behaviour.

Let us learn to practice water conservation at all times: in times of abundance and during droughts. Let us not be forced to use water sparingly and efficiently through water restrictions, but let us work towards avoiding those restrictions by making sure that we do not run out of water by intensifying and always practising water conservation in everything we do.

The dropping water levels in most dams and rivers are a sign and reminder that overflowing dams and rivers do not last forever. It is a call to go back to basics and strengthen water conservation initiatives in our lives. We need to always remember that water is a finite resource, which unfortunately has no substitute.

Water is life and a source of socio-economic development. Without water, we are doomed; therefore important that we take care of the little we have to ensure that we do not run out of the source of life.

As most parts of the country are in the dry winter season and only the Western Cape is receiving rain at this time, this is a reminder that we must always think about saving for the time of need. Even though the Western Cape is currently experiencing some flooding, water security is not guaranteed.

Dams and rivers were overflowing in most parts of the country not long ago, but now the water is dwindling, which shows that we must always save for tomorrow. This, then, calls for us to practise water conservation at all times, irrespective of whether there is an abundance or we are facing dire water shortages.

We also must not forget that we are faced with the challenge of climate change, which is associated with extreme weather patterns and negatively affects water security. With climate change comes extreme heat, leading to high evaporation, which leads to high water losses in our water resources. We can't control climate change, but we can mitigate its negative impact by strengthening our water use efficiency and water conservation initiatives.



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