

Conserve precious water even in times of plenty

Themba Khoza writes:

It has been a good season in terms of rainfall in most parts of the country and this is a good sign in terms of water supply security as most dams and catchment areas have good water levels.

But the situation is not that good in some parts of the country, like Nelson Mandela Bay which is facing serious water supply challenges due to the supply dams and rivers run dry and at critically low levels.

Even with good rainfall, what we must always keep in mind is that South Africa is a water-scarce country which calls for all of us to make sure that every drop counts by conserving and using the little we have in a responsible and sparing manner.

The rain season is coming to an end in most parts of the country except for the Western Cape. This then means that water will be coming out of the dams and rivers with no recharge of the water resources. It then becomes every citizen's responsibility to conserve and use the available water wisely and sparingly to ensure that we do not drain the water resources dry.

As a water-scarce country, water conservation must always be a priority in our water usage. We must always use it wisely and sparingly at all times and not wait for restrictions to remind us of our responsibility as responsible citizens. We must be like ants that collect and store their



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food during the good season for the hard times or season.

Responsible authorities, such as municipalities and water services providers, must lead by example in attending and fixing leaks and burst pipes. They must not just talk about water conservation and demand management, but they must practise what they preach to be taken seriously.

It is embarrassing to try to convince other people to use water wisely and sparingly when municipalities and the relevant authorities take days, weeks and even months to fix leaks and pipe bursts in the water supply systems, and the communities

see this.

As responsible citizens, we need to be active participants and hold municipalities to account as the water losses will eventually affect us in a negative way.

We also need to play our part in reliable water supply security as responsible citizens. We need to start by fixing leaks in our households as leaks are one of the major contributors to water losses in the country. We must always use as much water as is required for everything we do, basically we must not waste water as every drop counts. We must refrain from using a hosepipe to wash our cars but instead use a bucket, take a shower instead of a bath, or if using a bath do not fill it to the brim.

We also need to practise rainwater harvesting as we receive rainfall to relieve the pressure on the water supply systems and the water resources. Rainwater harvesting plays a major role in water conservation and help to reduce the water bill.

Prevention is better than cure. Let us prevent water supply challenges and disasters by being responsible water users who practise water conservation and wise water use at all times.

Pollution is another challenge that affects water supply as it negatively affects water quality, reducing the quantity of water fit for use. Let us prevent the pollution of our water resources and contribute to water security.