

COMMENT



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Sustainable, and reliable water supply

WATER is life. It is central to every aspect of life, and every living creature needs water to survive. Basically, we cannot live without water as it has no substitute.

South Africa is a water scarce country and climate change is having a negative effect on water availability and water resources. As we need water to survive, the onus lies with us to ensure that the available water and water resources are sustainable to keep providing us with the source of life. We need to play our part in ensuring water supply security, it is in our hands.

The best way to ensure water supply security for our current and future generations is basically for us to be responsible citizens and water users. We need to treat water with the utmost respect it deserves as the source of life which has no substitute. We need to have a positive mindset towards water which will lead to positive actions and behaviour preventing the wastage and loss of precious water in our communities.

Water conservation is the key to water supply security in this water scarce country. Everyone can conserve water, from individuals in households to businesses and industries. The best and simplest way to conserve water is to practice the three Rs (3Rs) which is Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

We need to reduce our water consumption and use enough water for that particular purpose, like not filling the kettle to the brim for one cup of tea. Water can be used multiple times before it becomes unfit for use, so let us reuse water, like using grey water for flushing toilets and water our plants.

Water recycling also helps to conserve water as the same water is used again and again which relieves the stress on water systems and water resources. Businesses and industries can recycle the water they use and reuse it again without always tapping into the municipal system.

If our mindset is focused on water conservation, we will always use water wisely and sparingly as we will always remember that every drop counts and there is no substitute for water. Our actions and behaviour will determine if we do not run out of the source of life, so it is crucial that we are always responsible in our water use.

Water conservation means preventing water wastage and losses. Responsible behavior will ensure that there is no wastage of the precious resource. It is important that we fix all leaks as they are the major causes of water losses. We must also quickly report all pipe bursts and water leaks in the municipal systems for the authorities to attend to the problem and prevent further wastage and loss of precious water. The authorities must also be quick in their turnaround time to fix water infrastructure to prevent unnecessary loss of water. Being a responsible citizen means knowing who to contact to report water and sanitation challenges in your area, so let us all have the contact and emergency numbers of our municipalities to be able to timeously call the authorities to fix problems and prevent water wastage and losses.

Water conservation acknowledges that every drop counts, and this calls on us to protect and keep our water resources clean and healthy. Pollution negatively affects the quality of water thus making water not fit for use, so let us be responsible citizens and prevent the pollution of our water resources. Let us stop people using our water resources as dumping sites.

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