



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Let us all play our part in water conservation.



Water stored for multipurpose use.

09 March 2015

South Africa is a water scarce country and this has been a burning issue for the past decade and more. We must all work together to preserve the little water we have. As the custodian of the country's water resources, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has been engaged in many campaigns to educate communities about such issues. The programmes include the National Water Week (NWW) which takes place during March. The month of March is internationally known as water month.

Most of our water comes from rainfall. There is the misfortune that there has been a decrease in the average rainfall for our country in recent years. Many factors have a contribution to this with climate change included. Water pollution and water wastage count as additional impacts leading to a lack of usable water. We are vulnerable to these factors. There is a need for collaborative effort among all role players to ensure security of water supply.

The DWS is doing its part in ensuring water availability for all. It has put in place plans, programmes and projects to deliver water services. Bulk water infrastructure is in place. Projects for replacing the old infrastructure and maximising dam capacities are running. All water boards make sure that water is good for human consumption every day. They have laid their infrastructure irrespective of cost and terrain. Municipalities are also playing their part. They make sure of availability of water on a daily basis for consumers and businesses. They attend to water and water related enquiries. They address irregularities and issues at local level.

The demand for water is growing. This has over-shadowed the good work that is done by the water sector. The issue of attitude towards water resources is a major problem. DWS is urging South Africans to save water, but others are not. There is still vandalism and theft of water property, leaks that go unreported and water wastage that is unaccounted for. The



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growth rate of informal dwellers is putting a strain on the infrastructure as they locate in areas without proper planning. The environment is also pushed beyond the capability boundaries.

Polluted rivers equal to loss and lessen available water. Protection of our water sources is everyone's responsibility. Water is a vital resource and everyone must use water responsibly in their daily lives. Service delivery protests must not be a destroyer of what is helpful to us. Leaking taps, burst pipes, illegal water connections and improper water use need to be reported immediately and refrained from. Water loss is of concern to all and we call on everyone irrespective of residence to attend to and report water leaks immediately to their local municipality.

Everyone else is saving water, #wen'ulinden

Zwakele Thabede

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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