



Opinion Piece

Festive season provide an opportunity to rethink the way we use water

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The prolonged and lower-than-normal rainfall since the beginning of the year has caused water stressed conditions in some areas across the Western Cape Province.

The festive season in particular is a period where we experience an increase in the volume of domestic water usage across the province of the Western Cape. This challenge is attributed to the rise in temperatures and less rainfall. Communities tend to mitigate against the scorching sun by frequently using their swimming pools. Those who do not have swimming pools, often use hosepipes as means of cooling themselves. In some communities you'll often see kids playing in the streets with hosepipes without realizing that they are wasting water. If these activities are left uncontrolled they can lead to severe water wastages which will contribute immensely to water shortages that the country experiences currently.

It is understandable that the beginning of this season will from time to time lead to increased water use; however as government we appeal to communities to exercise extra caution when using water during such seasons. In order to conserve water, communities are encouraged to prepare for these seasons in advance by installing rain water tanks in order to harvest rain water during winter rainy seasons.

Government alone cannot overcome the problem of water wastage and water leaks; therefore communities are encouraged to practice basic water conservation measures as outlined below:

- When you see a leaking tap at home, close it.
- When you see a leaking pipe on the road, inform the authorities
- Harvest and use rain water when filling up your swimming pools.
- Use rain water when washing your car and watering your garden
- Turn off taps between washing your face, brushing your teeth or shaving
- Take a five-minute shower per day instead of a bath
- Kettles should be filled with just enough for your needs
- Don't over-fill containers like cooking pots
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily.
- Dispose of tissues, insects and other waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- Use buckets instead of hosepipes when washing your car

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