



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### OPINION *PIECE*

#### **PREVENT SEWER SPILLS**

*Friday, 11 September 2015 - Mpumalanga Today*

*Sewer spillages in most parts of the country are a serious health and environmental hazard. They pose a serious threat to the wellbeing of communities. As South Africans we all need to play our part in protecting our environment.*

*We must stop the blame game and minimise sewer spillages which end up contaminating our water. We are quick to blame municipalities for the spills, yet we forget to look at our role as we also do contribute to the problem.*

*Let us be responsible citizens and assist our municipalities and government. We need to take care of our resources and be careful what we put into our drains.*

*As we all know, our communities have grown but most sewerage plants remain the same. We have to maintain and keep them in good condition all the time.*

*The communities need to ensure that we don't dump foreign objects into sewer systems as this leads to blockages which cause most of the spillages we experience.*

*The municipalities also need to play their role to ensure that sewer systems are well maintained. They need to attend to sewer spillages as soon as possible to prevent health risks to community members. We all need to work together and protect our sewer infrastructure from vandalism.*

*If we all pull in the same direction, these spills can be avoided. South Africa has a shortage of water, so we need to join forces and prevent sewer spillages as they negatively affect the quality of our limited water resources.*

**Themba Khoza**