



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### OPINION *PIECE*

#### RAINWATER CAN SAVE US

*29 January, Lowvelder*

*South Africa is currently experiencing its worst drought in many years although the rain that is currently falling are bringing some much-needed relief in most parts of the country.*

*The recent rain have brought some important relief, but we need to understand that it is not yielding significant results yet and the worst is not over yet as we experience El Nino.*

*This then calls upon all of us to continue conserving the little available water we have. We need to ensure that we store the water from the rain and not let it go to waste. We need to practice rainwater harvesting to ensure that we have enough stored for use in our households. Everyone can harvest rainwater using water tanks, drums and even buckets. Rainwater harvesting can also assist in minimising the amount of money spent on buying water credits as the harvested rainwater will be utilised for some of the activities in our homes like washing of cars, watering the garden and cleaning the house.*

*Dams and rivers are currently running low and the heat associated with the El Nino is speeding up evaporation rate. It is therefore crucial that the harvested rainwater is also kept in closed containers to ensure that the water is not lost through evaporation in this hot weather.*

*We need to always remember that South Africa is a water scarce country and ranks amongst the 30 driest countries in the world and the current drought is making water supply critical. Let us all join hands as Team South Africa and ensure that we harvest rainwater so that we do not let water run-off and go to waste.*

*This small act will increase our contribution towards water conservation efforts.*

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