



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OPINION *PIECE*

Save Water, Save Lives

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As we celebrate World Food Day, we need to be reminded that water is an essential pillar of human well-being and environmental stability. Without water and more importantly access to it, there is no food security and thus no human dignity. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) joins in today's celebration and pledges its best efforts towards sustainable supply.

Apart from the 8.5 million people directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture for employment and income, all of us take two or three breaks a day to enjoy a meal.

The agricultural sector contributes about 3% to the GDP and 7% to formal employment. No water, no food security.

In a quest to enhance food security for poor rural households and emerging farmers the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has for the past 5 years installed innumerable rain harvesting tanks in schools, clinics and communities.

The water collected is intended for irrigation of food gardens to improve food sufficiency. This water is also be used for domestic purposes where communities do not have a reliable source of potable water as well as for and for other productive uses.

While the installation of tanks brings a relief to the emerging farmers in the Western Cape the department still encourages people to use water sparingly.

To further boost food security, the Department would like to call upon the agricultural fraternity to exercise effective governance of water to improve food security and rural incomes. This will play a significant role in achieving the National Development Plan Vision 2030, which articulates the eradication of poverty and sharply reducing inequality by 2030