



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### OPINION *PIECE*

#### TOGETHER WE CAN MINIMISE SEWER SPILLAGES

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*Sewer spillages in most parts of the country are a serious health and environmental hazard. The sewer spillages pose a serious threat to the environment, especially water resources in terms of quality through pollution.*

*As South Africans, we all need to take an interest and play our part in protecting our environment, especially our water sources. We need to stop the blame game and all play our part in minimising the sewer spillages that end up contaminating our water sources in our areas. We are quick to blame municipalities when there are spillages and 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 in providing the services through the limited resources we have. As we all know that communities have grown but most sewer plants remain the same, we therefore need to play our part in the maintenance of systems.*

*Communities need to ensure that we do not dump foreign objects into sewer systems as this leads to blockages which cause most of the spillages we experience.*

*Municipalities also need to play their part in ensuring that sewer plants and systems are well maintained and attend to sewer blockages and spillages as soon as possible to avoid health risks to community members and environmental degradation.*

*We all need to come and work together and protect our sewer infrastructure from vandalism to ensure that we minimise sewer spillages.*

*South Africa is a water scarce country, therefore we need to join forces and prevent sewer spillages that affect water quality.*

**Themba Khoza**