



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

OPINION PIECE

WE NEED TO PRACTICE COLLECTING RAINWATER

27 January 2016

South Africa is experiencing its worst drought in many years and the rains that are now falling are bringing much-needed relief to most parts of the country.

The recent rains have brought some important relief, but we need to understand that the rain is not yet yielding significant benefits.

The worst is not over yet as we continue to experience the El Nino phenomenon.

It falls upon all of us to conserve the little water we have available. We need to store the water from the rain and not let it run-off and go to waste.

We need to practice rainwater harvesting to ensure that we have enough stored water for use in our households.

Everyone can harvest rainwater using water tanks, drums and even buckets to collect the rainwater running off the roofs of our houses.

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 the rate of evaporation.

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.

The drought has meant that water supply in the country has reached a critical level.

Let us all hold hands as Team South Africa and harvest rainwater to ensure that we do not let this much-needed water run-off and go to waste.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

**Themba Khoza
Mbombela**