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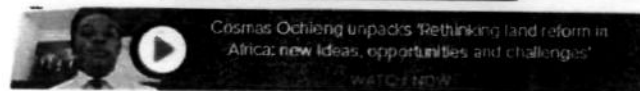
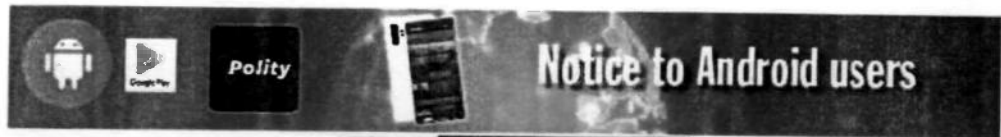
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We all have a role to play to avoid water wastage #COVID19

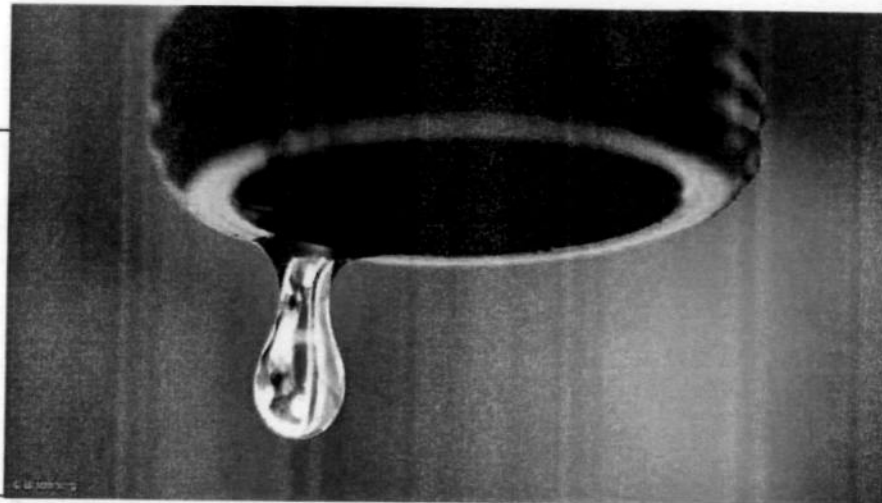


Photo by Bloomberg

7TH MAY 2020

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As we all know, coronavirus is dominating our thoughts and work at present, and public health comes first. Many of us are spending

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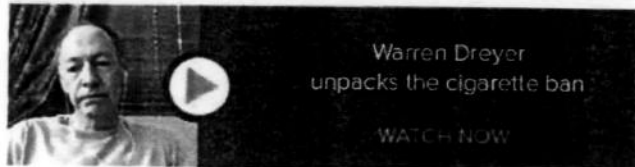
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guidelines and other measures.

Different strategies for resisting the spread of the COVID-19 virus have emerged. But the one that has cut through everywhere is simple and, supposedly, can be done by anyone: Wash your hands with water and soap for at least 20 seconds.

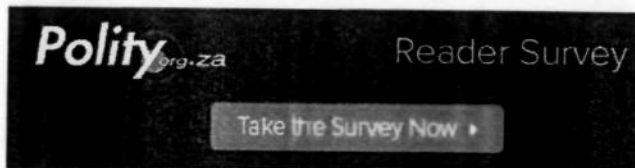
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ence, access to a reliable supply of clean water is operative. Everyone has the right to have access to sufficient ater.

Therefore, handwashing with soap and water is a critical defence against the spread of COVID-19. And reliable supply of clean water is vital not just for handwashing but also for keeping homes and healthcare facilities clean. But, despite this essential need for clean water to cope with the pandemic, most people do not have access to clean, reliable water supply close to their homes.

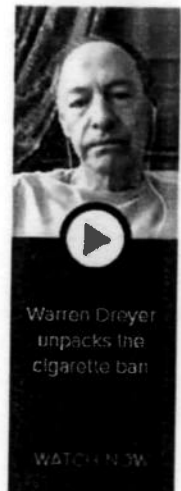
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With the country's dams levels at 70,4% full, municipalities have enough water to supply their respective residents without cutting it off abruptly to save it. According to the weekly report by the Department of Water and Sanitation the country has 22 551 cubic metres of water stored in its reservoirs. The volume of water will be enough to sustain the country through the dry winter season until the next summer rains.

Was Dr. Glenda Gray wrong to criticise government's lockdown regulations in response to Covid-19?

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communities, especially rural areas and informal settlements, are provided with reliable water as a matter of urgency is a critical intervention to avert the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

However, this should be accompanied by a responsibility on the part of community members to play their role in avoiding any destruction of these tanks. Collectively, we need to protect our water infrastructure and the water tanks that have been provided not allowing anyone to vandalise them.

so, we have to keep the flag flying for water-saving tips even in the current extraordinary situation. For example, collect water used from cooking- once it has cooled you can use it to water plants; choose to take a shower rather than a bath. As long as you keep it short you will save water. Another great tip is to keep a jug next to the kitchen tap to collect any water that you run when waiting for the tap to heat up. You can use this to water your houseplants or the garden.

This is even more important given the fact that South Africa is a water scarce country. As we wash hands we need to be alive to the this fact so that we avoid water wastage.

Therefore, we are called upon to save our precious water resources. It is also vitally important that we make it a norm to wash our hands regularly, especially during critical times such as after using a toilet and before preparing food.

Issued by Gauteng Department of Water and Sanitation.

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