Water is life. For millions of years, life on Earth has been dependent on water

Wastage blamed for the country's water shortage

Losses close to 50% in some municipalities

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so wasteful.

THE AVERAGE South African used 26 percent more water than the global average, and water expert Dr Anthony Turton says the country wouldn't

One South African uses an average of 235 litres of water a day while others across the world use 173 litres a day.

be suffering so much if it wasn't

In an analysis recently published in @Liberty, the policy bulletin of the Institute of Race Relations, Turton stated: "A key

KATE MORRISSEY

businesses dry.

crisis.'

to function.

TWO DAYS without water has

run some Melville, Joburg,

Melville knowing there's no

water," said Ishmael Kapula

of Bread and Roses. "It's a

He explained he has lost

lots of potential customers

because he can't serve cof-

fee. He said coffee machines

needed decent water pressure

Hell's Kitchen and Nuno's,

two other restaurants on Mel-

ville's normally bustling 7th

"No one wants to come to

part of the problem is that 37 percent of the water supplied by municipalities is 'non-revenue' water, which is either lost to leakages or is never billed or paid for.

close on 50 percent." These losses cost municipal-

with existing state capacity.



TAPS RUN DRY: A resident of Caledon Court, Limpopo Estate, in Sophiatown, Joburg, sets off to seek water elsewhere. The estate has had no water since Sunday, and promised water tanks have not been

"In some of the worst-performing municipalities, distribution losses are estimated to be

ities around R11billion a year, but cannot easily be overcome

Another reason for the high level of water wastage is the lack of engineering skills in munici-



Turton said the water shortages were predicted seven years ago by the South African Institute of Civil Engineers. He believes the "racialising" of the appointment of skilled workers led to the problem. "The shortage of engineering skills at thirdtier level is an 'induced' deficit related to the ruling party's insistence on a rigid form of racial transformation.

"Were it not for this factor, the engineering skills available would suffice to meet present needs. If the government was willing to deracialise the appointment of technical skills, the shortage would be overcome.'

Turton's report states that many poorly functioning municipal wastewater plants "spew close on 4 billion litres of untreated or partially treated sewage into the country's rivers every day".

"If current transformation policies continue to take precedence, we can anticipate a further deterioration in the operation of wastewater treatment plants.

"This is likely to generate a growing burden of disease, especially in poor communities, and an escalating cost for the treatment of potable water from sources contaminated by sewage.

"The possibility of major public health crises in the short to medium term is also growing and can no longer be discounted.'

"It's something you can't clients' hair.

live without, and closing for

No one wants to

come knowing

there's no water

His neighbour, who works

at a nearby hair salon, walked

in complaining about the situ-

ation. She said she had to

use bottled water to wash her

the day is not an option."

Melville businesses left high and dry

Street, were struggling to get

enough water to wash dishes.

One of Nuno's staff members

said his boss was shuttling

water from another area in

his car and had spent most

of the morning driving back

Jono Kirby, owner of Hell's

Kitchen, said he bought bot-

tled water yesterday for dishes

and toilets. In the back of the

restaurant, his staff placed

metal tubs of water in the

sinks to scrub dishes without

losing water down the drains.

incredibly expensive," Kirby

"Everything is becoming

for survival. When Neil Armstrong landed on the moon in 1969, he described Earth as "a shining blue pearl spinning in space". The blue colour is, in fact, the amount of water that is present on the surface. 70% of the Earth's surface is covered with water, but of this, approximately 97% Baths & showers **Toilets** is salt water, with the remaining 3% being fresh water. Of this **3%**, less than 1% is available for life on Earth. while the rest is in the form of ice at **KEY** Low-income household Households with gardens Agricultural Mid to high-income (including irrigation) 60% **Distribution of mean annual** rainfall in South Africa Mining & industrial Urban & domestic Environmental 10.5% 11.5% South Africa receives an annual rainfall of 492 millimetres whereas the rest of the planet receives **985mm**. This is nearly half the Earth's average. Thus South Africa is classified as a water-stressed country. There is also uneven distribution of rainfall across South Africa. The eastern half of the country is much wetter than the western half due to the nature of the weather conditions. South Africa also experiences alternating periods of droughts and floods, which affects the amount of water across the country. In addition, hot, dry conditions result in a high evaporation rate. Scientists predict that with global warming, Over 1 000mm South Africa will experience much wetter wet seasons and much drie 500-1 000mm 0-250mm dry seasons, resulting in an increase in floods and droughts. Graphic: Sithembile Mtolo

WATER CONSUMPTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Water use in households in South Africa

Source: www.waterwise.co.za

First death over scarcity of water

THAMI MAGUBANE

COMPETITION over scarce resources is bound to breed conflict and confrontations, says the Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

"In any situation, where there is a scarcity of resources, there will be conflict. People will not want to go for too long without a basic commodity such as water," says Dr Johan Burger of the ISS.

Burger was speaking following the death of Qiniso Mhlongo, 15, from Nongoma in Zululand, this past weekend after a dispute over water.

Boys from a nearby area had allegedly got into a fight with Qiniso and killed him after a row erupted over water.

Another hair salon, Georgia Belle Hair, didn't have bot-

tled water to work with. San-

dra Mukenge said she'd had

to cancel three appointments.

Mukenge said.

"We can't do anything,"

She and her colleagues sat

waiting for the water supply

to come back. Another hair

salon up the street had given

ilar straits. "We can't do any-

thing without water," Susan

Mazibuko said. She said

they'd turned away four or

A laundromat was in sim-

up and closed for the day.

five customers by 11am.

This is the first violent death related to a conflict over tests," said Burger. water that has been recorded

DELVING DEEPER: Alice Ndlovu and her son Junior look around the

since the crisis began. Police spokesman Brigadier Jay Naicker confirmed the incident. He said two people, one 16 years old and another 25, had been arrested and were expected to appear in court

Burger said the water woes would add fuel to the fires already blazing over service delivery failures in the country, as protests intensified

"Over the years, there has been an increase year-on-year in protests.

"In 2004/5 there were 660 protests, and in 2014/5, the police statistics show there has been an increase to 2289, that

is a 247 percent increase in pro-

He said that at the current rate, politicians should effectively deal with water shortage problems in the run-up to the local government elections.

"They would not want to be faced with these crises that might cost them the local government elections.'

The Star's sister paper Isolezwe reported yesterday that Qiniso, from ward 11 in Nongoma, was attacked while trying to protect young girls, including his sister, who were being harassed by boys from

The girls had been accused by the boys of polluting water.

Boss gets house arrest for fraud

A COURIER company's international manager, who saw an opportunity to scam his employer, was sentenced to three years' house arrest yesterday on fraud charges. Shaun van der Lingen, 31, appeared in the Specialised Commercial Crime Court in Bellville and pleaded guilty to 12 counts of fraud. The proceedings took the form of a plea bargain. Van der Lingen was an international manager with the company Globeflight Worldwide Express and over nine months defrauded the company of R315 187. He manipulated the company's electronic system by replacing the company's bank details with his own on invoices sent to clients. Van der Lingen was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, conditionally suspended for five years. One of the conditions was that he submit himself to three years' house arrest at his home in Sunningdale, and perform cleaning and maintenance duties at Table View police station. – ANA

Rapist jailed for 25 years

THE ZWELITSHA Magistrate's Court has convicted and sentenced a man to 25 years in prison for raping an 85-yearold woman. Zimele Nkumanda, 43, had been found guilty of attacking and raping the woman at her home in the Thembeni informal settlement outside King William's Town in June. Police spokeswoman Lieutenant Siphokazi Mawisa said the victim was raped at about 8pm on June 3. Nkumanda was arrested the next day. The unit commander of the King William's Town Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit. Major Sandile Mahobe, said he hoped the sentence would serve as a deterrent. "The suspect was sentenced within six months and this shows a good job done by the detectives who investigated the case." – ANA

Hunt on for baby snatcher

POLICE in the Eastern Cape are searching for a woman who allegedly abducted a five-month baby recently. Police spokeswoman Captain Sandra Janse van Rensburg said the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Unit was looking for information regarding the abduction of the baby from Kuyga in Port Elizabeth last month. "The complainant met a woman by the name of Asanda at Polar Park on October 26. The suspect was allegedly looking for a place to sleep, which was offered to her by the complainant at her house in Kuyga. The woman allegedly took the five-month-old baby, together with the sibling, a seven-year-old boy, to the shop to buy sweets. The boy was told to return home alone and that the woman would follow later. However, she never returned with the baby and a case of abduction was opened. Police have appealed to anyone with information who has any further information to come forward. – ANA

Outage fails to mar by-election

A MUNICIPAL ward by-election went smoothly despite power cuts in Rustenburg, the Electoral Commission (IEC) said yesterday. "Voting stations were not affected. We used rechargeable lanterns at temporary stations and our permanent station had electricity," said Tumelontle Thiba, the head of the IEC in North West. "Voting is not affected by the electricity shortage. Our stations were ready at around 6am." Three political parties were contesting ward 17 in the Rustenburg municipality. The ward was represented by the DA and became vacant after the councillor resigned. Contesting the election were Martha Mlambo of the ANC, Martin Coetzee of the DA and De Wet Nel of the Freedom Front Plus. Preliminary results were expected in the early hours of today. A by-election in Matlosana municipality was not contested. Thembeka Obittah Vilakazi of the ANC was the only candidate in ward 13. – ANA

Bogus doctors a concern

THE ARREST of a Nigerian man who allegedly used fake qualifications to practise as a doctor in Polokwane for several years has raised fears that the medical profession may have been infiltrated by many more impostors. Anton Nwuafor allegedly used fake qualifications to find a job as a doctor at a Limpopo government hospital. Yesterday, the Nigerian appeared in the Polokwane Magistrate's Court on charges of fraud, corruption and violation of South African immigration laws. He was set to apply for bail. Nwuafor was arrested on Friday. The State prosecutor told the court that the State would oppose bail. Dr Sizeka Maweya of the South African Medical Association (Sama) warned that the problem was widespread. Maweya said Sama had in the past helped the Health Department remove two Nigerians suspected of using fake qualifications from practising at Limpopo hospitals. Health MEC Phophi Ramathuba put the blame on the Health Professions Council of South Africa for failing to properly vet them . She said the department was monitoring recruitment processes with a view to closing loopholes in the system. - ANA

Respite for taxpayers

TAXPAYERS panicking about the looming tax return deadline can breathe a sigh of relief after the South African Revenue Service announced yesterday that it would extend its hours for the next two weekends. "Branch offices will extend working days to Saturdays for the next two weekends – November 14 and November 21 – in anticipation of an increase in the number of taxpayers who will file their returns," said spokesman Sandile Memela. The offices will be open from 8am until 1pm. The tax deadline is November 27. People planning to make use of extended weekend hours are encouraged to visit the Sars website for branch details, while anyone seeking clarity can call the Sars contact centre at 0800 00 7277. - ANA

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Massive blaze razes 2 000 shacks in Kya Sand

Brixton area for water.

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RESIDENTS scrambled to salvage their belongings but the inferno that gutted more than 2000 shacks in Kya Sand's Msawawa informal settlement spread too rapidly for them to save much. Thousands residents were displaced,

the City of Joburg said. faces of the residents. Mothers with

Desperation was written all over the babies on their back carried loads on their heads, some schoolchildren, still in uniform, helped to save whatever they could. Others who had returned from work watched in disbelief Three men blamed the fire on a paraf-

fin stove left unattended in a spaza shop. The blaze spread to a car parked nearby and spread to the shacks. Fire-

fighters battled to keep up as the wind caused the flames to spread fast.

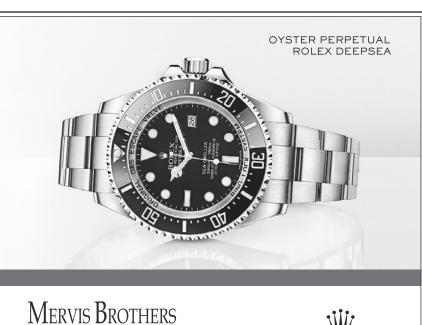
Reside Keith Munthali said that since he settled there six years ago, there had never been a fire that destroyed so many shacks at once. "This is a disaster. We

have never seen anything like this. My

shack has burnt down. I don't know what I will do."

Ward 32 councillor Matome Mafokwane said Gauteng MEC for Co-operative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements Jacob Mamabolo had told the community about plans to deliver houses in the area in place of shacks.

Mafokwane said disaster relief plans were in place. "Gift of the Givers and other NGOs are setting up tents and preparing supper. This is the biggest disaster we have had in Kya Sand."



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As the matrics have started writing their final exams, *The Star* would like to celebrate this special time by publishing articles of their success. If you know of matric pupils you believe will do particularly well this year, or

ship to get their matric certificate, le us know. We're looking for names of children and their schools, the reasons why you believe they will do well, contact details and photos.

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