

# Sanitation crisis put on the spot

WORLD Toilet Day which will be celebrated next month, is a stark reminder of the harsh realities facing millions of South Africans living in squatter camps without adequate sanitation and in certain parts of the country where the bucket system is still in place.

At this year's World Toilet Day, held annually on November 19, the spotlight will be on the globe's dire sanitation crisis with more than 2.5bn people who have no access to an adequate toilet with devastating consequences on health.

Alarming, South Africa mirrors the global crisis. According to a recent report of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) on the Right to Access to Sufficient Water and Decent Sanitation, approximately 11% 1.4 million households formal and informal, have no sanitation services, while 26% of households' services don't meet the required standards due to deteriorated infrastructure.

Lance Joel, MD of Enviro Loo, a sanitation solution provider, said: "From the above, it is abundantly clear that the world and importantly South Africa are dealing with a massive sanitation crisis.

"Poor sanitation not only exposes communities to a myriad of health issues but leads to social decay and research shows that school attendance drops if clean toilets aren't provided and open facilities lead to assault on vulnerable children and women."

It is against this backdrop that Enviro Loo is spearheading awareness around this all-important day through a Johannesburg event that will reach out to decision makers, stakeholders and the South African public. Additionally, the event will be supported by a digital campaign as well as public relations efforts.

Joel said the globe's sanitation crisis needs immediate and sustainable solutions.

"With comments from the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and from the above it's clear that private and public sector have to work together to realise safe sanitation.

"Sanitation and hygiene are motors which drive health, social and economic development around the world. An environment that lacks sanitation and clean water is an environment where achieving other development goals is an impossible dream. The time to act is now.

"Locally, sanitation must be a top priority in each governmental department, NGO and business that can all make a difference through impactful solutions.

"South African business must endeavour to develop and offer the most practical, costeffective and sustainable solutions that will aid government and NGOs in its efforts to put a stop to country's escalating sanitation crisis," he said.