



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **Free State Dam levels still need more to recover**

18 January 2017

Despite the recent rainfalls in Free State, the dam levels in the province still remain low and the Department of Water and Sanitation would like to urge water users to continue using water sparingly.

This week, dam levels in the province increased by a mere 4.4% from 49.6% last week to 54% this week. This time last year, the levels were at 55.7%.

Bloemfontein System: 4 dams serving mainly Mangaung. This week an increase of 1.1% at 37.9% compared with 28.3% the same time last year. There is still flow in the Caledon River and we continue to pump from the Tienfontein Pump station on the Caledon. The Welbedacht Dam is still spilling and is at 106.9%. Restrictions of 30% for urban and 75% for irrigation are still in place.

While there have been some slight improvements, the drought is not over and we need to intensify our efforts to save water. Unless there is a rapid and significant change to rainfall patterns there is still a very long road to recovery and we face the possibility of a difficult winter.

**END**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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