MEDIA STATEMENT

Cornelis River Dam completed

13 August 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation is pleased to announce that it has completed the construction of Cornelis River Dam.

The completion of this dam will ease water challenges faced by the community of Warden/Ezenzeleni area under Phumelela Local Municipality. The dam with a storage capacity at spillway level of 4 500 000 cubic metres is set to benefit 2 690 households and an estimated 10 674 people.

The concrete spillway was designed to safely accommodate the regional maximum flood without overtopping of the non-overspill crest when the dam is full as recommended. The surface area of the dam at full supply level is 98 hectare.

The Phumelela Local Municipality has established the need to establish sustainable raw water resources due to the unreliability of the current water resources. The dam at Warden is badly silted and has no capacity left for raw water storage and was posing a risk element of contamination from a nearby communal kraal.

The dam was implemented to ensure a sustainable and long-term solution for the water supply problems that had been experienced in the Warden/Ezenzeleni region. The supply problems were due to unprecedented residential development of Ezenzeleni. The high rural to urban migration and changing water use pattern due to the introduction of water borne sewerage systems under the bucket eradication programme places additional stress on the existing infrastructure and sources.

The Cornelis River Dam was completed on 8 July 2018 and stretches 23 metres in length and the wall is 205 metres

END

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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