



MEDIA STATEMENT

Misverstand Dam water release updates

23 April 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Western Cape released 5 cubic liters of water from Berg River Dam on Wednesday the 18th of April to Misverstand Dam. About 2 cubic liters of water will ultimately reach the Misverstand Dam due to the drought that the Western Cape Province is still faced with, resulting in deteriorating dam levels.

This transfer of water to Misverstand Dam is another effort by the department to ensure that the Western Cape Water Supply System does not fail. This release is for both domestic and industrial use. The release of this water will leave the dam level at 35.90%, whilst the Theewaterskloof Dam is at 10.08 %. The combined storage dam levels are at 19.61%. According to the South African Weather Services massive rainfall is expected for the Western Cape today.

A team of officials from DWS, EPWP, Local Government and Law Enforcement from affected municipalities along the West Coast worked around the clock policing and removing the debris along the Berg River.

According to the DWS Hydrological team, the water will reach Drie Heuwels gauging station at noon today, 23 April 2018. Ms Debbie Hene, Director Regulations says there has been a co-operation with farmers along the Berg River. "There are one or two instances where the team experienced water blockages at the river and farmers willingly removed the sand bags", said Hene.

The West Coast District Municipality supplies water to these municipalities from either the Voëlvlei Dam or the Misverstand Dams, both of which are at the lowest end of the Western Cape Water Supply system.

While this release will bring along a major relief to the municipalities, the department urges all of the municipalities to apply water restrictions and ensure that they comply with the Government Gazette published in December 2017 and January 2018. Municipalities are also encouraged to revisit their implementation plans for the augmentation projects to secure earlier delivery dates;

It is estimated that it will take approximately 20-26 hours for this water to reach the Misverstand Dam. Due to anticipated rain, this flow might change to the positive. The public is once again advised to stay away from the river as water runs at a higher speed and there remains the possibility of localised flooding. In order to obviate any negative impacts on locals along the river, the Provincial Disaster Management Centre has also been engaged to be on alert.

END

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