



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **Significant rains welcomed, but we are not out of the woods yet**

27 August 2018

The Western Cape catchments received significant rainfall during the past weekend and earlier this morning. Mr Sputnik Ratau from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) says the dam levels assessment report of 27 August 2018 suggests that the dam levels of the Western Cape Water Supply System (WCWSS) have reached 61.94%. This is a notable increase from last week 59,78%. The Theewateskloof which is the largest dam has reached 45,27%.

Ratau further says that “We are excited that the Western Cape is receiving the much needed rains to recharge the dam levels; given the fact that we are fast approaching the end of hydrological cycle.”

Whilst the recent rains will bring some stability to the dams, the drought conditions still persist, and there is still a need to continue water conservation initiatives. DWS remains concerned about the water security of the Klein Karoo Region which covers the Oudtshoorn areas. The Council of Greater Oudtshoorn has declared a local state of disaster due to critical water shortages.

Reports suggest that yesterday’s rains which lashed Cape Town had led to localized flooding in the low lying areas. Residents are urged to exercise due care when crossing rivers and other water systems.

Water users are reminded that there are still water restrictions in place across the municipalities in the Western Cape. Water restrictions will be lifted once the dam levels reach 85%.

“Water is Life, Sanitation is Dignity”

**End**

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

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