



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Water released from Berg River Dam reaches Misverstand Dam

25 April 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in collaboration with the Joint Operations Center established at the West Coast District Municipality wishes to update water-users about the status of water release from the Berg River Dam to Misverstand Dam.

DWS, through its National Water Resource Infrastructure (NWRI) Branch began the process of releasing 5 million cubic litres of water from the Berg River Dam into the Misverstand on 18 April 2018. The release was necessitated by the low dam levels at Misverstand Dam due to lower-than normal rainfall.

Half a million cubic meters of water has reached the Misverstand dam. Trevor Balzer, DDG Special Projects from DWS says the dam is currently at 18.5% in comparison to 10.5% last week on Tuesday. "With good policing along the river, we expect at least 2 million cubic metres in the dam" said Balzer. The latest report from DWS hydrological team suggests that the total release of water at Berg River Dam is 5.066 million cubic metres. The release of water from the Berg River Dam was stopped at 3:30 am on Monday, 23 April 2018.

Water released from the Berg River Dam is still flowing and is being monitored between the different telemetric points. The flow rate at both Hermon and Zonkwasdrift is 7 cubic metres per second and the bulk of water is consistently flowing between Hermon Bridge and Drie Heuwels gauging stations.

25% of the 2 million cubic metres expected has reached the Misverstand Dam while almost 50% has passed Drie Heuwels, which is the tail end of the dam. The calculated volumes will be supplied as soon as the information becomes available. It is anticipated that the calculated water volumes will reach the dam on Saturday, 28 April 2018.

Ms Boniswa Hene, Director Regulations DWS Western Cape commends the joint enforcement efforts between DWS and the various representatives from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, South African Polices Services, Cape Winelands, West Coast District, Stellenbosch, Drakenstein, Swartland, Bergrivier and Saldanha Bay local municipalities in ensuring that unlawful water use activities are minimised. The effort will strengthen the regulatory framework of water and environmental sector.

Minister Anton Bredell says whilst the release process will bring some stability at the Misverstand Dam and much needed relief to the area, the drought conditions still persist. However there must still be continued water conservation and minimal use. The final replenishing process is anticipated to be completed by 30 April 2018.

"Water is life, Sanitation is Dignity"

END

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation and West Coast District Municipality



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