



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### Water users cautioned to use water wisely despite increase in dam levels in the Western Cape

01 October 2018

Western Cape dam levels have this week improved, from 64.42 % last week to 65.70%. This increase can be attributed to rains that fell in the catchments recently. According to the latest dam levels report issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) the Western Cape Water Supply System has improved to 75.51% this week.

DWS would like to caution water users that, despite this increase, the province is still recovering from the devastating drought effects.

Provincial Head in the Western Cape, Rashid Khan, says the province is not yet out of the woods considering that we are nearing the end of rainy season. "Once temperatures rise, our dams will experience evaporation. Some of the dams, especially in the Karoo, are still a concern. Water users should bear in mind that water restrictions in the province will continue being implemented until the dam levels reach 85%", said Khan.

This week, Theewaterskloof dam, the largest dam supplying the City of Cape Town and other municipalities is at 57.64 compared to 27.67% same time last year. Berg River is 100% full and Clanwilliam dam in the West Coast Region is at 99.82%.

Figures below indicate how our dams looked like over the past four years at the end of September/beginning of October:

<b><i>Cape Town System Dams (Combined)</i></b>	28/09/2015	<b>73.75</b>
<b><i>Western Cape State of Dams</i></b>	28/09/2015	<b>71.95</b>
<b><i>Cape Town System Dams (Combined)</i></b>	26/09/2016	<b>61.63</b>
<b><i>Western Cape State of Dams</i></b>	26/09/2016	<b>61.41</b>
<b><i>Cape Town System Dams (Combined)</i></b>	02/10/2017	<b>37.17</b>
<b><i>Western Cape State of Dams</i></b>	02/10/2017	<b>35.88</b>
<b><i>Cape Town System Dams (Combined)</i></b>	25/09/2018	<b>73.51</b>
<b><i>Western Cape State of Dams</i></b>	25/09/2018	<b>64.42</b>

As different municipalities relax restrictions, water users are reminded to be cautious of their water usage. "To avoid the devastating water challenges in the province, I urge all water



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users to be responsible when using water. We all know that the province does not get rain in summer. We need to use every drop wisely so that agriculture and the economy are not affected” Khan said.

**ENDS**

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

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