



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Free State dams on the rise

25 April 2019

Free State is one of the few provinces that have recently experienced downpours that have resulted into dam levels to increase to 79.2% this week from 77.4% last week.

According to weekly dam levels report by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Bloemfontein water levels has risen tremendously this week compared to last week a changing water situation.

The Bloemfontein Supply Water System supplying water to dams in Mangaung Metro and surrounding areas increased to 57.8% this week compared to 56.6% last week. Erfenes Dam is at 72.9% from 51.2% last week. Krugersdrift Dam is at 83.9% an increase from last week's 61.0%. Gariiep Dam increased from 92.3% last week to 94.9% this week. Vanderkloof Dam currently stands at 68.1% an increase from last week's 67.3%. Koppies Dam is at 98.1% a major increase from 82.5% last week.

Some media reports suggest extensive damage and loss of lives due to the recent floods that hit the KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and other provinces.

While the department appreciates these downpours to improve water security, it remains vital to warn residents that water can be dangerous.

The following precautions need to be adhered to when there are heavy rains and floods;

- Communities are requested to take precautions when they are crossing rivers, lakes and other water systems
- Communities must limit recreational activities near water systems in particular when it is raining
- Avoid walking or driving when it raining heavily
- Reduce your speed and increase the following distance
- When biking, avoid puddles wherever possible.
- Walk on designated pathways and avoid walking in floodwaters.

End

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

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