



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Groundwater Campaign 2019

13 June 2019

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is continuing on a campaign to highlight groundwater as an important alternative to surface water.

The National Development Plan (NDP) estimates that urban population will grow by 10% every two decades. This increase in urbanisation will place more pressure on cities to deliver affordable and reliable water and sanitation services to larger numbers of poor households.

The National Water and Sanitation Master Plan hopes to achieve a change in the water mix through increased groundwater use, re-use of effluent from waste water treatment plants, as well as optimization of desalination and treated acid mine drainage so that by 2040 there should be less reliance on surface water.

Under the theme “Making the Invisible, Visible”, the groundwater campaign will share information on the importance of groundwater, protection of groundwater, as well as sustainable use and the regulation of groundwater. Most of South Africa’s groundwater is of potable quality, it is fairly cheap and fast to develop, and it is virtually at the door of most households.

The Department will meet with various relevant stakeholders, sector role players, academia and different spheres of government through public education programmes with regard to the campaign. Existing activities planned by different role players will also be used to share information.

Groundwater contributes to water security in South Africa; Let us protect, conserve and use groundwater in a sustainable manner.

**End**

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

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Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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