



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### **Department of Water and Sanitation calls on consumers to double their efforts to save water**

10 April 2019

Although on the eve of a dry winter South Africa has a fairly sufficient amount of water in its reservoirs, the Department of Water and Sanitation is calling on consumers to save water and use it expeditiously. The department's weekly report states that the country has 21 609,7 cubic metres of water that is stored in its reservoirs and almost 70% dam levels.

Thanks to persistent rainfalls in major parts of the country in the past week, dam levels have been stabilized and water storage improved drastically. Gauteng dams benefitted hugely from the torrential rains as the provincial dams shot to 96,4%, followed by Free State and Mpumalanga at 75,9% and 74,3% respectively.

However, Western Cape dams are a source of concern as they continued to slide to an alarming 36,5%, with a water storage of 681 cubic metres this week. With its Mediterranean weather, showers are expected to pour over large parts of the province as early as next month when the winter rains begin. However, five dams that form the Western Cape Water Supply System have stored a total 57,2% cubic metres water in their reservoirs.

The South African Weather Services is predicting more rainfall for Free State whose large parts have been drenched by torrential rains recently. Saulspoort Dam which is supplied by Liebennergvllei River reached 108,5 while Sterkfontein hit 93,6% level at the beginning of the week. Tierpoort Dam is the lowest in the province after reaching 7,2%

Although Mpumalanga's dams have risen to a respectable 74,3% this week, the situation has not changed for residents of Ermelo residents who still experience an acute shortage of water. Last week they complained about smelly drinking water which puts their health at risk and are forced to buy water from the shops. However, the Department of Water and Sanitation is working with the municipality to address the problem.

The average dam levels in Limpopo rose slightly from 65,7% last week to 65,9%. The Polokwane Water Supply System in Limpopo continued its slight decline when compared to 94,5% last week. The Luvuvhu Water Supply System, one the highest in the province, also has slightly declined slightly from last week's level. Nandoni Dam in Vhembe district is bursting at the seams with currently 100,60%

The week report indicates that North West and Northern Cape made significant progress in their dam levels this week. The average dam level in North West rose from 58,7% to 60,3% this week, while Northern Cape rose to 68,1%. Setumo Dam which is supplied by Moloto River in North West, is full to capacity at 103,6% The dam forms part of Ngaka Modiri Water Supply System and it supplies the towns of Mahikeng and Lichtenburg, among others.

Although Eastern Cape retained 62,3% level this week, the town of Makana continues to experience water crisis as the local dam plummeted to 7,6% this week. However, the Department of Water and Sanitation continued to lend a hand in the area by erecting new





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boreholes and refurbishing dysfunctional ones. The department's office in the province has set aside R300 million to help alleviate the situation.

The coastal regions of south and north coast in KwaZulu-Natal received substantial rainfalls in the past week that raised dams levels in the province to 62,3% this week. The Spioenkop Dam in Bergville reached its capacity of 100,2% while Klipfontein , supplied by White Umfolozi River, reached 102,1%. Mearns dam outside Mooi River also recorded a capacity 102,7% while Midmar in Natal Midlands is at 99,9%.

**End**

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