water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Weekly Status of Water Reservoirs in the Northern Cape

27 February 2019

The Karee Dam in the Northern Cape which serves the town of Calvinia is currently at a level of 39.5%, an improvement from last year's 0%. The area has been receiving low rainfall since 2008 with little groundwater recharge.

It should be noted that the Karee Dam is the only storage dam within the Northern Cape. The other dams are used as transient storages and have much smaller capacities than the larger storage dams in other provinces, which is the reason why the levels vary from week to week. The storage dams are fed from other upstream dams in the Vaal and Orange Rivers.

The Full Supply Capacity in the Northern Cape is at 147.3% and the water in storage is at 93%.

The Vaal River is at 75.8% and the Orange River at 69.5%.

The level at Spitskop Dam in the Harts River is at 38.7%, while the Vaalharts storage weir is at 69.9%; the Douglas storage weir is at 102%, and the Boegoeberg is drastically down to 88.7% from last week's 103,9%.

Residents of the Northern Cape are urged to continue using water sparingly, particularly as the Northern Cape continues to be negatively impacted upon by Climate Change, becoming more and more of a desert.

The department is closely monitoring groundwater levels through its groundwater monitoring programme. Surface water allocations and releases continue to be controlled by the department as planned.

End

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