



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Western Cape water situation**

06 February 2019

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Western Cape wishes to inform citizens about the latest dam levels across the province.

The heavy rains and thunderstorms that fell in some parts of the Karoo over the past weekend did not bring much needed relief as the rain did not fall the catchment areas. As such the inflow into the rivers was not significant leading to little or no inflows into the dams.

The Koos Raubenheimer Dam which supplies the greater Oudtshoorn is currently at **41, 66%** a **1, 7%** decline as compared to **43, 41%** last week. The Little Karoo Stompdrift Dam has shown slight improvement as it increased from **4, 32%** last week to **10, 49%** this week

According to the latest dam levels assessment of 04 February 2019, the combined average dam level for the Western Cape Water Supply System (WCWSS) is at 58, **36%** as compared to **25,17%** at the same time last year.

Other dam levels in the Western Cape are as follows

- Berg River Dam **81,03%**
- Clanwilliam Dam **50,56%**
- Theewaterskloof (biggest dam in the province) **50,84%**

Sputnik Ratau DWS National spokesperson says the department in conjunction with the Western Cape Provincial Government is implementing short-medium term interventions in Central Karoo. Some of the interventions include:

- Enforcement of current level 4 water restrictions
- Continuous leak detection and repairs
- Replacement of faulty water meters with smart meters in the next few months, and
- Raising awareness on various platforms including radio and social media.

Following heavy rains and thunderstorms over Oudtshoorn on the weekend, there are verified reports that suggest significant structural damage to over 100 properties in that region. Ratau says since it has become a norm for drought to be followed by floods, citizens are advised to take precautions when crossing bridges and engaging in recreational activities near water systems. "As much as we appreciate downpours, we wish to remind citizens that water can be dangerous", says Ratau.

Ratau further states that as the Western Cape receives its rains primarily in winter, people are reminded to harvest rainwater and use this in and around their houses.

"Water is life, Sanitation is Dignity"

**End**





## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
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