MEDIA STATEMENT

State of dams in the Western Cape

12 August 2019

The dams in the Western Cape System Supply Area have shown a steady increase within the last few weeks since the winter started. Although the rainfall started late, there has been constant inflows into the dams on the far western and north-western boundaries of the Province. Most state owned dams in the Western Cape are currently on average 64.55% full, which is a 12% increase on last year.

The Western Cape Water Supply System (WCWSS) which comprised of the six largest dams has recorded a remarkable improvement as it has reached 80% to full capacity compared to 58,44% same time last year.

Sputnik Ratau the national Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) says the Department is however still concerned about the very slow recovery of the Dam levels in the Breede-Gouritz Water Management Area. "The last four years have seen little to no rain within the Klein Karoo, Greater Karoo, Central Breede River and Southern Cape areas.

Significant rainfall in these areas last occurred in 2011." Says Ratau. The lower than average rainfall over the last eight years, has not only contributed to the low dam levels, but has also significantly impacted on the declining groundwater levels and recharge within the Greater and Klein Karoo areas. Ratau further states that the fact that our dams are presently healthier than previous seasons provides an ideal opportunity to chart a way ahead with much more vigor on the water for equity front.

"Water is life, Sanitation is Dignity"

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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