



MEDIA STATEMENT

The latest on the Western Cape water situation

24 April 2019

According to the latest Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) dam levels report released yesterday of 23 April 2019, the Western Cape dams are in a better state as compared to the same time last year. The Western Cape Water Supply System (WCWWS) which comprises 6 largest dams is currently at 46, 91 % as compared to 19, 61 % at the same time last year.

Sputnik Ratau, Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) states that there is a slight increase in the Gamka Dam which supplies the area of Beaufort West in the Karoo. "The Karoo region in particular has been a concern for some time as the dam was very empty at the beginning of the year. While we have witnessed an improvement, the Karoo area is definitely not out of the wood yet", says Ratau.

The other dam levels across the province are currently standing as follows:

Garden route Dam:	90.25%
Wolwedans Dam:	70.82%
Clanwilliam Dam:	13.27%
Kwaggaskloof Dam:	22.40%

Some media reports suggest extensive damage and loss of lives due to the recent floods that hit the KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and other provinces.

While DWS appreciates these downpours to improve water security, it remains vital to warn residents that water can be dangerous. There needs to be a continuous reminder that even though the Western Cape is a winter rainfall Province, it is not immune to flooding.

DWS has the following safety advisory in relation to heavy rains and flooding:

- Communities are requested to take precautions when they are crossing rivers, lakes and other water systems
- Communities must limit recreational activities near water systems in particular when it is raining

As indicated the Western Cape Province receives winter rainfall and this is an ideal time to practice water saving initiatives, in particular rain water harvesting.

"Water is life, Sanitation is Dignity"

End

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