



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS call to citizens to intensify washing of hands to curb the spread of COVID-19

14 December 2020

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is re-affirming its call to citizens to continue washing hands as a means of ensuring good hygiene practises. The call comes amid the resurgence of the COVID-19 across the country. The 2 areas of Garden Route and the City of Cape Town have been declared hot spots in the Western Cape Province

Sputnik Ratau from the National Department of Water and Sanitation says: “the simple practice of washing hands with soap and water is one of the effective ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“Recognising that the washing of hands is one the key non-pharmaceutical ways to curb the spread of COVID 19, DWS implores all water users to use water sparingly as South Africa is one of the driest countries in the world” says Ratau.

Ratau further states that the Western Cape in particular recently survived the worst drought in memory.

To further prevent the spread of COVID-19 DWS has distributed and installed water tanks in the densely populated informal settlements to enable communities to wash hands during and beyond COVID-19.

As we wage the battle with COVID 19, DWS has promoted the following tips when using water from the water tanks:

- Residents must stand at least 6 steps away from each other when queuing for water;
- After using the tap, do not touch the face, eyes, nose, or mouth until hands are washed with water and soap;
- Ensure the tap is closed after usage to avoid water wastage;

Meanwhile, the hydrological report of today 14 December indicates a slight decline of the dam levels in the Western Cape Water Supply System. The slight decline week on week is consistent with rising temperatures and the end of the rainy season in the province. However, users are urged not to lower their guard regarding water savings.

“Water is Life, Sanitation is Dignity”

End

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For more information contact: DWS Media Liaison Director Sputnik Ratau on 082 874 2942

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