



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA STATEMENT

Notable improvement on Western Cape dam storage systems

05 July 2021

The Western Cape dams storage systems saw a notable improvement this week. This follows significant rains accompanied by storms that fell in the catchments in the last few days.

According to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) hydrological report of today 05 July 2021, the Western Cape Water Supply System (WCWSS) which supplies water to Cape Town and the surroundings is currently at 90%, an over 15% increase as compared to last week.

The Theewaterskloof Dam which is the largest dam in the Western Cape is edging towards 100% as it is currently over 95%. Over 10 dams including Clanwilliam Dam saw an over 5% increase in this period.

Sputnik Ratau, Spokesperson for the National Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) says while DWS is happy with the manner in which dams are replenishing, water users are reminded that between 2015-2018, Cape Town in particular was faced with long and severe drought. There was improvement thanks to the combined efforts of water conservation demand management initiatives, as well as compliance and enforcement which resulted in some relief.

South African Weather Services (SAWS) forecast significant rains this week. Another cold front is expected to bring more rains this week. The Department is calling on all residents and people engaging in an assortment of activities near dams, rivers and canals to be cautious. Heavy rains at times add excess water to rivers, canals and dams raising risks including potential drownings.

It is important for all users and those who stay in low-lying areas to take even more care at this time. The rainy season in the Western Cape always results in localised flooding in many areas, primarily the informal settlements. Therefore all residents in these areas need to take more than extra care at this time.

“Water is Life, Sanitation is Dignity”

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation in Western Cape

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