



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Western Cape water situation

01 March 2021

The hydrological report of today, 01 March 2021, indicates stable Water Catchments across the Western Cape.

“The Gouritz River Catchment System is currently a 24,92% a less than 1% decline as compared to 25,32% at the same time last week”, says Sputnik Ratau, Spokesperson for the National Department of Water and Sanitation. This catchment is a summer rainfall region situated on the Eastern side of the Western Cape and has been characterised by inadequate rainfall for the last 5 rainy seasons.

The Western Cape Water Supply System (WCWSS) which supplies City of Cape Town and surrounding areas is stable at 77,8%. This is a better yield as compared to 63,88% at the same time last year. Ratau further stated that DWS is pleased to see Theewaterskloof which is the largest dam in the province, maintaining the 80% mark at this time of the year.

As evident during the 2017/18 drought, the effects of climate change are altering rainfall patterns, making it a challenge to predict the rainfalls. Given the effects of climate change, DWS calls upon water users to diversify their water mix to reduce heavy reliance on surface water.

Meanwhile DWS is geared to discharge the National Water Week Campaign. This is DWS' flagship campaign taking place annually in March. The theme of this year's National Water Week is **Valuing water** and is aimed at encouraging communities to value and save water.

“Water is Life, Sanitation is Dignity”

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation in Western Cape

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

For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal at: www.dwa.gov.za