



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Western Cape water situation

12 February 2024

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) wishes to update citizens about the status of water security in the Western Cape Province. The hydrological report of 12 February 2024, suggest a slight decline on the River Catchments Systems across the province compared to last week.

The Western Cape Water Supply System (WCWSS) which supplies water to the City of Cape Town, Theewaterskloof Local Municipality (LM), Drakenstein LM, Stellenbosch LM, Berg River LM, Swartland LM, Saldanha LM, some Mines & Industries as well as Water Management Institutions (representing mostly farmers (irrigation)) in the catchments of the Riviersonderend, Berg & Eerste Rivers is currently at 78,46%, an over 1,86% decrease compared to last week.

On the West Coast of the province, the Olifants-Doorn River Catchment average combined dam levels are 53,91%, compared to 57,68% last week. There is a significant project underway in the catchment, which is the raising of the Clanwilliam Dam wall. In recent months, the project has been revived after a visit by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu.

In the Gouritz River Catchment, which covers the Little and Klein Karoos and the coastal belt, the combined average is 66.88%, a considerable improvement from the period when it hovered below 50% between 2018 and 2022.

On individual dams, the Theewaterskloof dam the largest dam accounting for 54% water supply in the province is at 75.21% full, a better yield than last year's 54,80% last year, far better than 30,83% when the City of Cape Town and surroundings were facing the worst drought in memory. Other dams dam storage systems are as follows;

- Berg River Dam 79,69%
- Brandvlei Dam 59,47%
- Ghamka Dam 77,77%
- Wolwedans Dam 96,12%

Ms Ntombizanele Bila-Mupariwa, DWS Western Cape Provincial Head, says the week-on-week decline in dam levels is consistent with the scorching hot weather conditions during the first two months of the year. "The sweltering high temperatures we have experienced combined with high water usage in recent weeks has contributed to the slight decline of the dam levels in the province" says Bila-Mupariwa

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## water & sanitation

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Bila-Mupariwa further states that South Africa is a water-scarce nation receiving insufficient and unreliable rainfall. This calls for renewed efforts to use water sparingly.

The National Government in conjunction with other spheres of Government and water bodies will closely monitor the dam levels across the Western Cape and take appropriate measures to safeguard water security.

**END**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

**For more information, contact Wisane Mavasa Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation on 060 561 8935.**

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