

CITY OF CAPE TOWN

23 APRIL 2018

STATEMENT BY THE CITY'S EXECUTIVE DEPUTY MAYOR, ALDERMAN IAN NEILSON

Cape Town edging closer to water-saving target

As at today, Monday 23 April 2018, our collective consumption over the past week was 507 million litres of water per day. This is 35 million litres lower than the previous week's spike in average consumption of 542 million litres per day and close to our record low of 506 million litres per day, which was achieved on 9 March 2018. A great thank you is due to Capetonians who continue to strive to reach our savings target.

However, dam levels have declined by 0,9% to 20%. This is the highest rate seen over the past few weeks and is due to a large release of water from the Berg River Dam via the Berg River to the Misverstand Dam by the National Department of Water and Sanitation. This was done in an effort to ensure uninterrupted water supply to West Coast municipalities, including Saldanha Bay. These municipalities abstract water from Misverstand Dam which had become critically low in recent weeks. Read more below:

We urge all of our water users to give it their best shot and to ensure that our collective water usage breaks through the 500 million litre barrier. We need to get down to the required 450 million litres of collective daily water usage, or 50 litres per person per day, to stretch the available water supplies.

Our consumption is being closely monitored by the National Department of Water and Sanitation who are responsible for enforcement of water abstraction restrictions from the large dams comprising the Western Cape Water Supply System – the system which also supplies Cape Town. If we are not able to bring our consumption down to the required 450 million litres a day, we could face even more stringent restrictions in the new hydrological year.

Importantly, we urge our water users to please continue saving even if it's raining. We do not as yet know how much rain we will receive this winter and, while we cannot control the weather, we can control our usage.

The City continues to do everything in its power to reduce usage. For instance, our advanced pressure management programme is helping to save more than 50 million litres of water per day.

Our water enforcement blitzes and awareness drives continue to ensure that there is fair usage of water by all residents across the city. We remain committed to our programme of making additional water available.

The City is recognised internationally for its water management and infrastructure maintenance efforts. Our rate of overall water losses is 16%, versus the national average of 32%, and we are working tirelessly to reduce this even further.

It is only if we all continue to do our bit that we will be able to keep Day Zero away. Thank you for this show of unity, Team Cape Town.

We encourage all of our water users to see if they are living a #50LitreLife and to show their commitment to saving our precious water by getting a free profile picture at <http://bit.ly/2lzvM2t>

Please visit www.capetown.gov.za/thinkwater for all water-related information.