



Media Statement: for immediate release

**13 DECEMBER 2018**

### **SETTLERS DAM RUNNING DRY**

Makana local municipality is currently faced with drought and the main dam (Settlers) is now down to 18%. This clearly shows that the municipality will face major disruption in a few months if residents are not using the water sparingly and adhering to the water restrictions. The municipality has previously effected water restrictions, but despite all the warnings, water consumption has not declined. Urgent consideration should be given to imposing some rationing now, before dam water runs out.

There is a project currently running for the upgrade of James Kleynhans Water Treatment Works to double the existing capacity from 10 – 20 megalitres per day. This will see the whole of Makhanda getting supplied by this plant.

Currently, there is a construction of a rising main from Intermediate reservoir to high level reservoir to enable supply from James Kleynhans to feed up to the high level reservoir including, this includes mechanical, civil and electrical modification of existing system.

If we run out of dam water then the total water supply for all Grahamstown will be 10 megalitres per day, for a city that demands about 21 megalitres per day. This will mean disruption for everybody, and will make life very difficult for businesses, schools and Rhodes University.

In order for the municipality to be able to ensure that all resident get good water supply, water restrictions have been imposed and the Council has taken the following resolutions:

That a fine per offence be charged for people contravening the restrictions as per the municipal by-laws

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Acting Director of Engineering and Infrastructural Services (DEIS) be granted delegated authority to review the restrictions based on the raw water supply and treated water in the Municipal systems until the restrictions are removed subject to monthly reports to Council being submitted

The CFO and Director DEIS be granted authority to approve additional staff/overtime/shift work to manage the city's water supply when necessary until the restriction are removed in consultation with the Municipal Manager

The situation be broadly communicated (radio, website and notices)

The municipality does a formal application for revised volume abstraction authorization to the Department of Water & Sanitation

Makana municipality prepare a project plan with budget to improve the water supply (Howiesinspoort pump station – to improve the water storage and James Kleynhans WTW – improve the water treatment at the entire Makhanda) to the Department of Water and Sanitation

Residents are requested to adhere to these water restriction so that everybody is able to get water in all areas. They are also encouraged to invest on water tanks to harvest rain water and are advised to abstain from filling their tanks with treated water.

**For further details and enquiries please contact Communication Officer, Yoliswa Ramokolo @ 046 – 603 6152/16 Cell: 078 550 2707 or [yramokolo@makana.gov.za](mailto:yramokolo@makana.gov.za) or Anele Mjekula @ 046 – 603 6181 [amjekula@makana.gov.za](mailto:amjekula@makana.gov.za)**