



# RAND WATER

HEAD OFFICE

522 Impala Road Glenvista 2058

P O Box 1127 Johannesburg 2000 South Africa

**12 October 2024**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **WATER SUPPLY ALERT**

Water storage levels throughout Gauteng Province have significantly declined due to excessive water withdrawals by municipalities, raising serious concerns. Rand Water has repeatedly warned municipalities in Gauteng about this potential crisis. We have communicated through letters, held meetings with many municipalities, and engaged in discussions at Gauteng's Intergovernmental Governance Forum and the Gauteng Water Imbizo. Unfortunately, the crisis we sought to prevent has now materialised. The water supply systems in Gauteng, including Rand Water reservoirs, are critically low, and the situation is anticipated to worsen with the ongoing heat wave.

Rand Water would like to alert communities, particularly in Gauteng, that water storage could soon be depleted if municipalities do not implement our recommendations. It is essential to act now to prevent the impending disaster. Rand Water emphasises that it is operating at full capacity and cannot pump additional water into the system. Due to the limitations imposed by the organisation's extraction license from the Department of Water and Sanitation, Rand Water cannot extract more water from existing sources. The only viable solution to address this issue is through Water Conservation and Demand Management.

In light of this, Rand Water has advised municipalities to reduce the physical losses of 33% identified in the No Drop report, repair leaks, enforce by-laws, and address illegal connections. Additionally, Rand Water reminds consumers that the organisation is a bulk water supplier; therefore, any water shortages should be reported to the respective municipalities, as the organisation (Rand Water) is not responsible for water distribution within municipalities. Consequently, inquiries regarding water interruptions should not be directed to Rand Water. Rand Water is left with no option but take steps to protect its system from total collapse.

For media inquiries, please contact:

- **Justice Mohale** (Media Relations Manager) at 083 417 6999 [jmohale@randwater.co.za](mailto:jmohale@randwater.co.za)
- **Makenosi Maroo** (Spokesperson) at 072 545 5041 [mmaroo@randwater.co.za](mailto:mmaroo@randwater.co.za)