



**STELLENBOSCH**  
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**MUNICIPAL NOTICE 136/2023 – Tuesday, 26 September 2023  
12h00**

Dear residents,

The Municipality is aware of some posts on social media platforms around the Ida's Valley Dam wall. Please refrain from making or sharing such statements unless factual or verified at source.

The Municipality has engaged both the Provincial and District Disaster Management Centres and can confirm that no warning has emanated from them, nor from our own Municipal Disaster Management Centre around the Ida's Valley Dam.

The wall at the Ida's Valley Dam is structurally safe. The Ida's Valley Dam has a newly constructed overflow structure, and the dam wall is structurally sound. There is no risk of a wall breach. Our officials are monitoring the situation at present. Officials visited the facility this morning (at 11h50) and found minimal overflow at the bottom of the dam and at the overflow weir.

There is a smaller dam higher upstream which has a relatively small catchment area and thus is not at risk of overflowing, surpassing design standards, or breaking. The Ida's Valley Dam also extracts water from the Eerste River for municipal use.

The Municipality has placed a lot of effort in the pre-winter months to focus our stormwater maintenance teams on clearing all stormwater drains and channels in preparation for the winter season. What is being witnessed at present is a large amount of high intensity rainfall in a short period of time. When this happens, water infiltrates the soil, and the groundwater levels rise, which contributes to flood-like scenarios and places the stormwater drainage system under pressure. As waters subside, the drainage system plays its role again and we have all our stormwater teams, as well as cleaning teams on site tending to relief and repair efforts.

The Theewaterskloof Dam is owned and operated by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). DWS has not reported any sluice gates being opened at the Theewaterskloof Dam.

The Berg River Dam, also operated by the DWS is being adequately managed at present. The Wemmershoek Dam is owned and operated by the City of Cape Town and is being adequately managed at present. These dams do not contribute towards water levels in the Eerste River as suggested by some social media postings.

Therefore, we urge all residents to remain calm and not to spread information which has not been verified. Doing so takes time and effort away from the officials who need to be out on site attending to relief and repair efforts.

Please use any of our channels on “Lets Fix It” to log proper requests with location and contact details, and pictures, instead of forwarding messages to your local Ward Councillor which do not have the required information above nor fault reference numbers attached to them. We urge everyone to remain calm and be responsible during this period. The Municipality will attend to all relief efforts in due course.



**Municipal Manager**  
**2023/09/26**