



INTERNET ARTICLE

Rains fill the Vaal Dam to the brim

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Persistent rains in the past two weeks have filled the Vaal Dam to its brim, raising hope that Gauteng will have enough water to sustain itself during the dry winter season. The dam level increased remarkably from 94, 7% last week to 103,5% this week.

Through the Integrated Vaal River Integrated System the dam supplies water to the major parts of Gauteng to ensure an efficient water demand management in the province. Gauteng is the economic hub of South Africa and a cross-spectrum of industries depend on water for production.

A weekly report by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) indicates a significant improvement recently in the rainfall that has led to the overflow of several dams across South Africa over the past two weeks. The rain was soft but intense, enough to soak the soil and replenish groundwater for basic use. Improvements in the past two weeks have been noticed in most provinces, namely Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State, North West and KwaZulu-Natal. The report shows that national average dam levels have increased significantly from 70, 5% last week to 75, 2% this week.

However, the situation remains gloomy in Western Cape where dam levels are continuing to drop by one percent week-on week. The Western Cape Water Supply System's six dams that serve mainly the City of Cape Town have plunged from 18, 3% to a perilous 17,7%. The system was at 24, 4% at the same time last year. Theewaterskloof Dam continues on a week-on-week downward slide from 10, 4% to 10, 3%. Clanwilliam is the only dam that registered some improvement from 6, 2% to 6,4%, while Voëlvlei remains stagnant at 14,5%.

In Eastern Cape the Algoa System with 5 dams that serve Nelson Mandela Bay, decreased marginally from 24, 7% to 24, 5%. Last year the system was recorded at 44,1%. Kouga Dam remained static at 10, 8% while Loerie Dam decreased from 100, 3% to 98,0% at the end of last week. Groendal Dam stands at 50, 7%, while Impofu took a slight knock from 38,5% to 38,2%.

The Amathole System with six dams serving Buffalo City increased slightly from 90,4% to 90,7%. Last year this time it was at 73, 5%. Bridle Drift decreased from 81,8% to 81,6%; Nahoon decreased from 97,9% to 96,9%. Laing is down from 100,4% to 100,2%; last year at the same time it was at 99,7%

The Bloemfontein System with 4 dams serving mainly Mangaung increased by a whopping 7% from 41,4% to 48,4%; during the same time last year it was at 49,2%. Welbedacht is at 72, 7%. Knellpoort increased from 48, 3% to 51,3%; Rustfontein increased from 26,4% to 40,4%; Groothoek Dam experienced the biggest increase and is up from 37,9% to 53,5%.

The North West Province has a fair amount of water in its dams to sustain it through the dry season. The Crocodile West increased significantly from 83, 3% to 89, 6% in the period under review. The system was recorded at 97,1% in the same period last year. Disaneng is down from 63, 2% to 62,8%. Setumo is at 80, 3% and Potchefstroom is at 100,8%.



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The Umgeni Dam system in KwaZulu-Natal with five dams serving eThekweni and Msunduzi in Pietermaritzburg, increased from 70, 5% to 73,7%. The system was at 62, 0% in the same period last year. Midmar Dam decreased from 101, 1% to 100, 5%, while Inanda has increased remarkably from 62,8% to 70,3%.

The Northern Cape average stands at 82,2%, an increase of 0,9% from 81,3% last week. Vaalharts was recorded at 91,1%, a decrease from 94,6% last week.

In the Limpopo province the dam levels increased from 69, 8% to 74, 2%. Modjadji is at 28, 6%. Nandoni is down from 101,8% to 101,0%, and De Hoop is at 95,4%.

In Mpumalanga levels rose by a fraction from 81% to 81,3%. Buffelskloof is at 82, 7% and Bronkhorstspuit is bursting at the seams at 103,8%.

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