



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Above normal rainfall is needed to see significant improvement in dam levels

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Despite the recent rainfall, the dam levels are still under pressure and the effects of drought continue to engulf communities in different provinces.

On Monday, the Department of Water and Sanitation released the weekly dam levels report, which indicates that despite the good rains experienced throughout the country during the past few weeks, dam levels remain under the desired average levels.

The average dam levels this week are at 50.7%, an increase of 1.5% from last week. Although this is a slight improvement from the past week, more rain is needed for the country to see a substantive improvement and to officially mark it out of the woods.

KwaZulu-Natal experienced rains mainly in the northern parts, and these have not made a significant impact as the water did not make its way to key catchment areas. The average dam levels in the region are at 42.5%.

In the Western Cape, the dam levels are at 43.3%, Free State at 51.3% and Limpopo at 54.3%. Dam levels in the North West are at 65.9% with the Gariep Dam sitting at 43, 7%.

Water restrictions will continue to be imposed; with Limpopo, the Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, parts of Mpumalanga and North West under level-two restrictions, and Western Cape under level-three water restrictions.

Water users are encouraged to continue using water sparingly and to comply with the restrictions, as there is a need to intensify our efforts to save water.

Unless there is a rapid and significant change to rainfall patterns, there is still a very long road to recovery from the drought.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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