



MEDIA STATEMENT

Dam levels continue to decrease - DWS report

25 October 2017

The scorching heat in most parts of the country continues to affect dam levels negatively as they have dropped by one percent, a weekly report by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) indicated this week

The levels have dropped from a national average of 64,4% last week to 63,8% this week.

This has prompted the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Nomvula Mokonyane, to encourage all South Africans to use water more responsibly. Speaking at an event in Durban recently, Mokonyane said the government needed to proactively root out unlawful water use, non-compliance to water use authorisation and water losses and leaks. Abiding by the law and authorisation would assist in achieving the vision of equitable and sustainable water use.

She said South Africa had been battered by a crippling drought over the last three years and some areas in the Western and Eastern Cape were still experiencing alarmingly low dam levels.

In KwaZulu-Natal, dam levels have decreased from 49,6% to 49,0% this week. The Umgeni Dam system in KwaZulu-Natal with five dams serving eThekweni and Msunduzi in Pietermaritzburg, has decreased from 54,5% last week to 54,3% . The system was at 44,1% in the same period last year .Spioenkop is at 73,7% down from 74,6%. Woodstock is at 74,0% and Wagendrift decreased from 97,1% to 96,6%.

In Mpumalanga, which was also battered by heavy floods, the dam levels have decreased from 71,1% to 69,5% this week. Witbank is at 98,1%, Morgenston at 46,1% while Driekoppies at 41,1%.

In the Eastern Cape the Algoa System with 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay is at 30,1% from 30,5%. Last year the system was recorded at 69,4%. Kouga is at 13,2% down from 13,5% last week. Impofu is down at 51,6% from 52,1%;last year at the same time it was at 81,3%. Haarlem is at 27,8% from 26,6% whilst Groendal is at 53,2% the same as last week.

The Amathole System, with 6 dams serving Buffalo City decreased from 68,8% to 68,6%. Last year this time it was at 77,6%.

The Vaal Dam has decreased to 82,7% compared to last week when it was 83,5%. The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) that has 14 dams serving mainly Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom, decreased by 0.6% from 74,6 to 74,0%. The system was at 49,5% in the same period last year.

In the Western Cape water rationing has officially been rolled out in the city as dam levels are currently at 36,6%, whilst last week the province was at 35,9%. Despite heavy rains and flooding in other parts of the country the Western Cape continues to experience severe



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drought conditions. Normal service will be restored as soon as demand decreases to within the limitations of Level 5 water restrictions

Capetonians breathed a collective sigh of relief when the Theewaterskloof Dam increased by 3% and is now measured at 27,3% following recent rains in the region. Calitzdorp is at 24,6%, having increased from 24,1% and Voelvlei rose 28,8% following a reading of 27,1% last week.

In Limpopo Nwanedzi is at 75,4 %, Nandoni at 97,5% and Albasini at 79,0%.

Currently the Bloemfontein System, with 4 dams serving mainly Mangaung, decreased by 1,4% from 37,7% to 36,3%. The system was at 33,5% during the same time last year

In the North West, Molatedi Dam is at 48,9%, a slight decrease from 49,7% last week. The Crocodile West system which has six dams serving mainly Tshwane, Madibeng and Rustenburg, is at 88,0% this week. The system was recorded at 80,9% in the same period last year.

The average dam levels in Northern Cape stand at 86,0% this week, a decrease of 1,2% from 87,2% last week. Spitskop Dam is at 83,3%, down from 84,9% last week.

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