



MEDIA STATEMENT

Dam levels continue to drop despite heavy rains

29 November 2017

Good rains have been experienced in most parts of the country, including the drought-stricken Western Cape, but have had little impact on the country's dam levels. Instead, the levels continued their slide week-on-week.

A weekly report on dam levels indicates that there is some stability in in the Western Cape where dam levels remained at 34, 7% since last week.

The Spokesperson for the department, Sputnik Ratau, said that there was a trend nationally that despite rains, dam levels were dropping . The high temperatures in between the rain led to a high rate of evaporation and, combined with usage, resulted in lower dam levels, he said.

Cape Town's main supplying dam, Theewaterskloof, remains at a perilous 23,3% while Voëlsvlei Dam is at 27,4% and Clanwilliam Dam is promising at 33,6%.The report shows that the average dam levels in the province at the same time last year was 54,7% and this year it is at 34,7%.

Nationally, the average dam levels have dropped from 60, 7% last week to 60,3%.

In Gauteng the Vaal Dam stands at 77,0% compared to last week at 78,1% .Despite some heavy rains this week, the Vaal River System, consisting of 14 dams and serving mainly Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom, has decreased slightly from 70,5% to 70,2%.

In the Eastern Cape the Algoa System with 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay increased to 29,6% from 29,9%. Last year the system was recorded at 64,7%. The Amathole System, with 6 dams serving Buffalo City decreased from 79,4% to 79,2% as opposed to last year this time when it was 77,3%.

In the Free State the Bloemfontein System, with 4 dams serving mainly Mangaung, fell by 0,8% from 33,3% to 32,5% .The dam was at 34,9% during the same time last year.

North West dam levels have decreased slightly from 73,1% last week to 72,7% this week. The Crocodile West System which has six dams serving mainly Tshwane, Madibeng and Rustenburg, increased slightly from 84, 4% to 84,6% this week. The system was recorded at 86,4% last year. Roodekopjes decreased from 74, 9% to 74,0% ,it was at 78,6% the same time last year.

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) that has 14 dams serving mainly Gauteng Sasol and Eskom, decreased by by a fraction 0.3% from 70,5 to 70,2%. The system was at 52,5% in the same period last year.

The Umgeni Dam system in KwaZulu-Natal which has five dams that serve eThekweni and Msunduzi in Pietermaritzburg, increased from 53, 8% to 54, 1%. The system was at 47, 4% in



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the same period last year. Midmar increased from 75, 2% to 75, 8% while Inanda has increased from 58, 9% to 59, 7%.

Northern Cape is at 78,9% this week ,a decrease of 2,6% from 76,3% last week . Spitskop in the Northern Cape is at 70, 1% down from 73,9 last week.

In Limpopo dam levels are at 65,7% down from 66, 3%. Modjadji Dam in Mopani district is at 39, 5%, down from 39,8% last week. Nandoni is at 96, 6% and De Hoop at 93,1%.

The Mpumalanga dam levels stand at 66, 2%, a decrease from 66,6% last week. Mpumalanga has dams such as the Blyderivierpoort at 64, 0%, Loskop at 85, 5% and Ohrigstad at 50, 3%.

End

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**For more information contact: Mr Sputnik Ratau (Departmental Spokesperson)
082 874 2942 / 012 336 6813 / rataus@dwa.gov.za**