



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

13 September 2017

Dam levels continue to drop week on week

The average national dam levels continue to decrease slightly week on week. This is according to the weekly monitoring report of the dam levels conducted by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) on 11 September 2017.

The average dam levels have decreased by 0.5% from the previous weeks reading of 66.6%. However, this is better when compared with the same time last year when national reservoir levels were at 52.5%, an increase of 14.1% over the past year.

The Algoa System, which consists of 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay, decreased by 0.3% to 31.3% week on week. Last year at the same time the system was at 72.2%. The water restrictions remain at 25% for urban use and 60% for agricultural use.

The Amathole System which consists of 6 dams serving Buffalo City also recorded a decrease and is sitting at 61.1% a decrease of 0.6%.

The Bloemfontein System is still below the 50% mark and is at 39.2% compared with 36.3% at the same time last year; restrictions will remain in place.

The drought is tightening its grip on the Western Cape. The Cape Town Dams System serving mainly the City of Cape Town is now sitting at 36.8%. The system was at 61% at the same time last year. This situation is deemed as critical.

The Voelvllei Dam is up by 0.8% to 27%. The Berg River Dam rose to 60.2%, an increase of 4.2% from last week. The dam is currently being augmented from the Drakenstein Augmentation Scheme.

The Theewaterskloof Dam is still dwindling and is sitting at 28.1%. The City of Cape Town announced the implementation of Level 5 Restrictions on 3 September which will amongst others limit domestic consumers to 20 Kl/month and make provision for fines for non-compliance ranging from R5000-00 to R10000-00.



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The volume of water in storage has only increased in the Western Cape Province. Of particular concern is that despite the recent cold fronts the average dam levels in the winter rainfall areas have only increased by 1.9% but are considerably down (now at 26.5%) year on year. The seasonal outlook is not particularly promising in this regard.

Consumers are encouraged to continue saving water and to remember that each drop counts.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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