



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### Dam levels decreased slightly again

07 June 2017

There is a gradual fall off in the capacity of our dams in summer rainfall areas will in all probability continue for the rest of winter.

Based on our 5 June 2017 report, the national water storage has once again decreased slightly week on week and are down by 0.3% to 72.1%.

There has been a slight decrease in capacity in all provinces with the exception of Northern Cape where there is a slight increase.

#### Provincial levels

Compared to the previous week:

- Eastern Cape - (down 0, 9% to 60, 3%).
- Free State - (down 0, 2% to 84, 2%).
- Gauteng - (down 0, 3% to 91, 5%).
- KwaZulu-Natal - (down 0, 2% to 58, 2%).
- Limpopo - (down 0, 2% to 77, 8%).
- Mpumalanga - (down 0, 3% to 78, 9%).
- Northern Cape - (up 2, 4% to 89%).
- North West - (down 0, 5% to 88, 2%).
- Western Cape - (down 0, 3% to 17, 7%).

#### Water Supply Systems

**Algoa System:** 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay: this week saw a decrease of 0, 9% to 37, 2%. Last year at the same time were at 76%. This system will require special focus as it is significantly lower than last year. Normally this system does get some benefit from the cold fronts during the winter season.

**Amathole System:** 6 dams serving Buffalo City: this week decrease of 0, 7% to 68, 8%, last year was at 86, 6%. Dams significantly lower than last year and may have to consider restrictions, this will be determined when the systems analysis is done during June.

**Bloemfontein System:** 4 dams serving mainly Mangaung: this week down by 0.6% to 50.8% compared with 33, 9% the same time last year. There is still flow in the Caledon River and we continue to pump from the Tienfontein Pump station on the Caledon. Restrictions are still in place. Still not meeting target restrictions.



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**Cape Town Dams System:** 6 dams serving mainly City of Cape Town: this week decreased by 0, 3% to 19, 1%. The system was at 29, 2% at the same time last year. The Voelvlei dam up 1% to 1, 7% (there were problems with the gauge plates which have now been attended to). The Berg River Dam is down 0, 7% to 28, 7%. The Theewaterskloof is down by 0, 2% to 13, 3%. The Wemmershoek is down by 1, 4% to 35, 1%.

DWS Restrictions for domestic 20% and for agriculture 30% are in place. The City of Cape Town is now on Level 4 restrictions which were implemented from 01 June with the corresponding punitive tariffs effective from 01 July.

**Crocodile West system:** 6 dams serving mainly Tshwane, Madibeng and Rustenberg slight decrease of 0, 3% to 98, 5% at the same time last year the system was at 95, 6%.

**The Vaal River System:** 14 dams serving mainly Gauteng Sasol and Eskom down 0.5% to 84, 1% compared with 58% the same time last year.

**Katse Dam** is down 1, 2% to 43, 2%.

The **Vaal Dam** is down 1, 0% to 98, 9%.

The **Sterkfontein Dam** is down 0, 1% to 90, 4%. The **Grootdraai Dam** is down 0.5% to 89, 8%. **Bloemhof** is down 0, 4% to 101, 6%. The System Operating Forum will now only meet in June 2017 to consider the operating rule for the 2017/18 hydrological year.

**Umgeni Dam system** with 5 dams serving mainly eThekweni and Msunduzi. This week is down 0, 3% to 64%. The System was at 53, 3% last year.

**Hazelmere** is up to 121% (capacity has not been amended to reflect the new capacity of the dam as a result of the raising of the wall).

**Albert Falls** is down 0, 1% to 34%. **Midmar Dam** is down 0, 4% to 80, 7%. There are no changes in restrictions of 15% for domestic, 50% for irrigation and 15% for industry at this stage.

Other KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) dams which are on the watch list **Klipfontein** slight increase of 0, 4% to 67, 5%; **Goedertrouw** up 0, 5% to 33, 6%; **Pongolapoort** steady at 40, 2% and **Hluhluwe** which is up 0, 6% to 73, 8%. Restrictions are in place for Richards Bay and are monitored on a weekly basis.

**Orange River:** The Gariep Dam down 0, 8% to 86% and Van Der Kloof Dam up 1, 2% to 70%.

The Department of Water and Sanitation would like to remind water users to use water wisely as most dam levels continue to decline. It is important to note that South Africa is considered a water scarce country, therefore water users are urged to play an active role in the protection of our water resources.

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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