



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Dam levels remain low despite mid-summer rainfall

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The Department of Water and Sanitation would like to alert the members of the public that the mid-summer rains in some parts of the country have not made any significant impact to get the average dam levels to desired levels.

Even though there has been a slight improvement in some dams, we would like to request water users to continue using water sparingly and save this precious resource.

The South African Weather Services has predicted that there is a reduced likelihood of chances of above-normal rainfall in a period between January and April across the country. This forecast is quite concerning with regard to the recovery of our dams. Unless there is a rapid and significant change to rainfall patterns there is still a long road to recovery and we face the possibility of a difficult winter.

The Vaal River System consisting of 14 dams and serving mainly Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom has increased by 0.8% to 54, 8%, a gain of 82 million M3, this is the eighth consecutive week that the system is above 50%. The system was at 61.9% last year.

Lesotho's Katse dam is at 38.7%, a decrease by 1% from last week; Vaal Dam increased by 3.1% last two weeks to 44.4%, the Sterkfontein Dam is steady at 86.2% and the Grootdraai Dam is at 90.9% an increase of 0.4%. Water Restrictions of 15% for urban use and 20% for irrigation use are still in place.

Other provinces that are below the 50% mark include Free State which is at 49.6%, Kwa - Zulu Natal at 41.1%, the City of Cape Town at only 46% while water usage is exceeding 800 million litres a day and Limpopo just tipping over the 50% mark with 50.8%.

The continued prediction of lower than normal rainfall by the South African Weather services could mean that the recovery rate would stretch beyond three years.

South Africans are urged to use water wisely and adhere to water restrictions in order to avoid penalties and further restrictions imposed.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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