



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Dam levels show slight improvements in some parts of the country

8 February 2017

The dam levels have yet again improved marginally, with national water storage improving by a mere 0, 6 percent from 55% last week to 55, 6% this week. At the same period last year, the dam levels were at 54.9%.

This is despite recent rainfalls that were experienced in some parts of the country; an indication that the country is yet to overcome the drought.

The Department of Water and Sanitation therefore continues to encourage water users to comply with by-laws of their respective municipalities by using water sparingly. The department would like to urge municipalities to continue with water restriction measures as dam levels are still below normal levels.

The provincial levels stand as follows:

Eastern Cape – 56, 9%

Free State – 57, 2%

Gauteng – 86, 7%

KwaZulu-Natal – 47, 1%

Limpopo – 66, 1%

Mpumalanga – 67, 8%

Northern Cape – 93, 6%

North West - 73, 8%

Western Cape – Total – 36, 2%



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The Vaal Dam water levels are at 68, 9%, up from 68, 1% seven days ago and 57, 8% during the same period last year.

The Western Cape System with six dams serving the City of Cape Town was at 38, 5% last week but dipped to 36, 9% this week. The system was at 45 % last year.

The Algoa System with five dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay was 53, 4% last week but dropped to 52, 2% this week. The system was recorded at 90, 9% last year during the same period.

The Amatole System with six dams serving Buffalo City was 72, 4% last week but remains the same at 72, 4% this week. The reservoir was measured at 92, 9% last year.

The Umgeni System, with five dam serving Ethekewini and Musunduzi, was at 48, 7% last week but remained the same at 48, 7% this week. The system was at 58, 4% during the same period last year.

The Bloemfontein System with four dams serving Mangaung was 37, 9% last week and it did not change as it stood again at 37, 9% this week. It was recorded as lowest during the same period last year at 30, 3%.

The Polokwane System was at 58, 4% last year. The system was measured at 48, 7% last week and is still the same at 48, 7% this week.

Seasonal forecasters predict that above-average rainfall can be expected up to March 2017. "Most parts of the country will have above-average rainfall for the remainder of summer", the South African Weather Service said this week. Rain returned to parts of the country this week following a few weeks of dry and hot conditions.

While the department commends those water users who have been true ambassadors of efficient water usage, sadly, this cannot be said about some of our residents, and our overall water usage has been consistently above the target.

DWS is however encouraged by those municipalities who continue to take action against these culprits.

The department is constantly monitoring the situation and municipalities are implementing additional measures including restrictions and tariff increases where necessary.

END.



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