



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### Dams levels increase following rains

18 January 2017

The country's dam levels have increased by 2.1 % following the recent rains to 52.8 % compared to 50.7% around the same time last year.

Provincial levels compared to the previous week: Eastern Cape is up by 0.4% to 58.6%, Free State by 2.7% to 54%, Gauteng by 0.3% to 87.1%, KwaZulu-Natal by 1.1% to 43.6%, Limpopo by 3.2% to 57.5), Mpumalanga by 2.3% to 64.9%, Northern Cape by 19.5% to 94.3%, North West by 1.6% to 67.5% and Western Cape went down by 1.9% to 41.4%.

Water supply systems: Compared to the previous week: Algoa (down 0.7% to 56.4%), Amathole (up 0.4% to 73.7%), Bloemfontein (up 1.1% to 37.9%), Cape Town (down 1.8% to 42%), Crocodile West (down 0.1% to 91.8%), VAAL (IVRS) (up 3.2% to 61.7%), Polokwane (up 0.8% to 37.5%), Umgeni (up 1% to 48.6%).

Algoa System: 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay: this week a decrease of 0.7% to 56.4%. Last year at the same time were at 94.4%.

Amathole System: 6 dams serving Buffalo City: this week an increase of 0.4% to 73.7%. No restrictions in place. Last year at the same time were at 94.5%.

Bloemfontein System: 4 dams serving mainly Mangaung. This week an increase of 1.1% to 37.9% compared with 28.3% 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. The Welbedacht dam is still spilling and is at 106.9%. Restrictions of 30% for urban and 75% for irrigation in place.

Cape Town Dams System: 6 dams serving mainly City of Cape Town (CoC): this week decreased by 1.7% to 43.8%. The system was at 51.2% at the same time last year, the system is dropping approximately 1.7% to 1.8% per week.

The Voelvlei dam down 1.6% to 48%, Berg River down 2.5% to 52.5% and Theewaterskloof down 1.8% to 36.3%. The 20% restrictions for domestic and 30% for agriculture in place for the Cape town System. The City of Cape Town have increased their level of restrictions to Level 3.

Crocodile West system: 6 dams serving mainly Tshwane, Madibeng and Rustenberg an decrease of 0.1% to 91.8%. System was at 71.2% at the same time last year.



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The Vaal River System: 14 dams. Serving mainly Gauteng Sasol and Eskom has increased by 3.2% to 61.7%, this is the tenth consecutive week that the system is above 50% and has gained 333 million M3 week on week.

The system was at 58.5% last year. Katse dam is at 44.2% increased by 2.1%. Vaal Dam increased by 6.4% to 59.2. The Sterkfontein Dam increased by 0.4% to 87%. The Grootdraai Dam is at 100.6% an increase of 1.8%.

Pumping continues from the Upper Tugela Transfer Scheme into Sterkfontein and from Heyshope dam into Grootdraai dam (Usutu Scheme).

Polokwane System: 2 dams. Increase of 0.8% to 37.5%. System was at 55.5% at the same time last year. Restrictions of 20% for all users are in place.

Umgeni Dam system. 5 dams serving mainly eThekweni and Msinduze. This week an increase of 1% to 48.6%. System was at 57.7% last year. Hazelmere is at 66.8% an increase of 0.2%. Nagel Dam increased by 5% to 64.9%. Midmar dam an increase of 1.1% to 58% 56.9%. Restrictions of 15% for domestic, 50% for irrigation and 15% for industry in place and are being achieved.

Other KZN dams which remain dangerously low: Klipfontein at 23% an increase of 5%; Hluhluwe 22.9% a decrease of 0.3%; and Goedertrouw 19.8% an increase of 1.3%, Pongolapoort 38% an increase of 0.5%.

Orange River: The Gariep dam is at 47.1% a increase of 3.4% and Van Der Kloof Dam 52.6% a decrease 1.1%.

While there have been some slight improvements in dam levels with the national average increasing by 2.1% with the rain last week, the drought is not over and we need to intensify our efforts to save water. Unless there is a rapid and significant change to rainfall patterns there is still a very long road to recovery and we face the possibility of a difficult winter.

**THE END.**

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

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