



MEDIA STATEMENT

Heavy rains bring joy and mayhem

10 October 2017

Recent heavy rains in parts of the country have brought joy among some South Africans while it caused elaborate damage in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces. Rescuers and paramedics in KwaZulu-Natal reported eight people who have died following the flash floods in Durban. They are still searching for a toddler who was swept away by flashfloods on Tuesday afternoon in Durban.

A weekly report released by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) on Tuesday indicated that the average dam levels had dropped slightly from 64,4% last week to 64,2% . However, the figures are expected to change after recent rains.

Subsequently, the department issued water safety and flood warnings amidst reports of severe thunderstorms, risk of hail and flooding .According to the SA Weather Service (SAWS), there were heavy rainfalls fell along the KwaZulu-Natal coast right up to Eastern Cape and parts of Mpumalanga as well as Swaziland.

In Kwazulu-Natal, Umgeni Dam system in KwaZulu-Natal with five dams serving eThekweni and Msunduzi in Pietermaritzburg, remains the same at 53,1% . The Yesterday's rain is expected to change this figure .Albert Falls was at 22,5% down from 23,1%. Inanda is expected to increase from 57,8% by at least one percent and Hazelmere is also expected to increase to 98,0%

Heavy rains continued across parts of Mpumalanga.The Mpumalanga dam levels are slightly lower at an average 70,5% from 70,6% last week. The provincial dams are performing satisfactorily with Witklip at 91,2%, Loskop at 91,8% and Ohrigstad at 60,4%.

In the Eastern Cape the Algoa System with 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay is at 30,6% from 31,2%. Last year the system was recorded at 71,1%. Kouga is at 13,6% down from 14,1% last week. Impofu is down at 52,9% from 53,5%;last year at the same time it was at 82,2%. Haarlem is the same at 24,4% whilst Groendal is at 49,2% from 51,6%. The Amathole System, with 6 dams serving Buffalo City increased from 60,0% to 60,7% .Last year this time it was at 78,9%.

In Gauteng, the Vaal Dam is at 84,6% compared to last week when it was 84,8% .

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS)that has 14 dams serving mainly Gauteng Sasol and Eskom, decreased by 0.1% from 75,0 to 74,9%. The system was at 50,5% in the same period last year.



water & sanitation

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The Western Cape continues to experience severe drought conditions. Water usage remains critical and on Wednesday Cape Town Mayor Patricia de Lille released the city's critical water shortages disaster plan, which would see rationing and saving. The city also announced that it anticipated its supply of municipal water would run out around March 2018 if consumption was not reduced to 500 million litres of collective use per day. The current collective water use has gone down to 607 million litres per day. As of Monday, 9 October, the useable water left in dams stood at 27.8%

Western Cape dams levels have increased slightly from last week to 36,1% .The Theewaterskloof Dam is at 27,7% (2016: 52,5%); Calitzdorp is at 23,1%(2016: 88,1%) and Buffelsjags is at 100,8% (2016:101,9%).The average dam levels for the province at this time last year was 62,1% compared to last week's average of 36,0%.

Limpopo's dams levels continue to remain high with Magoebaskloof at 100,3%, Nandoni at 98,1% and Loskop at 91,8%.

Currently the Bloemfontein System, which has four 4 dams serving mainly Mangaung ,increased by 1,4% from 35,8% to 37,2%.The system was at 32,1% during the same time last year

In North West, Molatedi stands at 50,2%, a slight decrease from 50,7% last week The Crocodile West system which has six dams serving mainly Tshwane, Madibeng and Rustenburg ,decreased slightly to 89,2% this week .Last week it was at 89,4%. The system was recorded at 83,6% last year.

Dam levels in Northern Cape are 92,9% this week ,an increase of 1,8% from 91,1% last week. Karee Dam is at 1,1%, down from 1,9% last week.

Water users are urged to inculcate the culture of saving water as the country is still recovering to the effects of drought that hit most parts of the country in the past three years.

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