



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

No El Nino is expected this summer but SA will experience late seasonal showers

05 September 2017

Although no heavy rains are expected at the beginning of summer season in the country, the SA Weather Services is predicting heavy showers towards the end of the period. The good news is that the El Nino phenomenon that brings with it the drought, will not hit South Africa this summer.

However, on the eve of the rainy season South Africa's dam levels are continuing with their slide, albeit on a fractional percentage of 0,5, a report released by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), stated this week.

The department's weekly report that was released on Tuesday indicates that the average dam levels have dropped from 67,6% last week to 67,1%.

In the Western Cape dams have reached critically low levels as the rainy season draws to a close, with the average 33,7%. The Theewaterskloof Dam is 26,2% (2016: 51,5%); Voëlsvlei Dam is at 26,2% (2016: 66,1%) and Clanwilliam Dam 38,4% (2016: 100,8%). The average dam levels for the province at this time last year was 61,5% compared to last week's average of 32,8%.

The provincial government has come up with ways to implement emergency measures to avoid "day zero" - when there is no water left at all. Contingency measures include sinking extra boreholes, tapping aquifers, and assisting farmers with their crops and animals. The City of Cape Town has implemented Level 5 water restrictions with immediate effect, including water pressure management measures. The upper limit for domestic consumption is 87l per person per day, and households are restricted to a maximum of 20kl a month (20 000l).

Residents of Cape Town have been advised to keep an emergency store of between 2litres to 5litres of water for drinking and basic hygiene at all times. The city is closely monitoring the situation to compare their water consumption levels with a view to tightening restrictions to save more water. Normally water consumption tends to increase because of the heatwave associated with the summer season.

In Gauteng the Vaal Dam is at 88,5% compared to last week when it was 89,2%. The low rainfall in winter has resulted in the Vaal River System, consisting of 14 dams and serving mainly Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom to decrease slightly.

In the Eastern Cape the Algoa System with 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay decreased to 31,6% from 31,7%. Last year the system was recorded at 71,9%. The Amathole System,



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with 6 dams serving Buffalo City decreased from 62,5% to 61,7% as opposed to last year this time when it was 81,4%.

In the Free State the Bloemfontein System, with 4 dams serving mainly Mangaung, decreased by 1,3% to 39,8% from 41,1% .The dam was at 36,9% during the same time last year.

North West seems to be stable with its dam levels averaging over 90% this week. The Crocodile West system which has six dams serving mainly Tshwane, Madibeng and Rustenburg, decreased slightly to 93,7% this week. Last week it was at 95,0%. The system was recorded at 92,9% last year.

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) that has 14 dams serving mainly Gauteng Sasol and Eskom, decreased by 0.3% from 77,8 to 77,5%. The system was at 53,5% in the same period last year.

The Umgeni Dam system in KwaZulu-Natal the five dams serving eThekweni and Msunduzi in Pietermaritzburg, decreased from 57,0% to 56,1%. The system was at 46,2% in the same period last year.

The Northern Cape province is at 93,2% this week ,an increase of 0,7% from 92,5% last week .Spitskop in the Northern Cape is at 89,5% down from 89,9 last week.

Limpopo's dams are almost full with Mokolo at 94,7%, Nandoni at 99,1% and De Hoop at 98,0%.

The Mpumalanga dam levels are at an average 73,9% from 74,5% last week. The provincial dams are performing satisfactorily with the Blyderivierpoort at 95,3%, Loskop at 96,5% and Ohrigstad at 74,1%.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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