



MEDIA STATEMENT

Slight improvement in dams levels this week

16 February 2017

This week, the national water storage has improved by 2, 3% from 55, 6% last week to 57, 9% this week - a sign that dam levels are increasing at a slow pace.

This phenomenon further demonstrates that most parts of the country are still water distressed and the meagre rains we have experienced recently in some parts have not made any significant impact for us to say we are out of the woods.

The provincial dam levels have shown some improvements, with more than half showing an increase compared to last week.

- Eastern Cape increased from 56.9% to 58.2%
- Free State increased from 57.2% to 60.8%
- KwaZulu-Natal: slight increase from 47.1% to 47.9%
- Limpopo: up from 66.1% to 66.9%
- Gauteng: decreased from 86.7% to 86.3
- Northern Cape: up from 93.6% to 95%
- North West: noticeable increase from 73.8% to 78.1%
- Mpumalanga: slight decrease from 67.8% to 67.1%
- Western Cape has remained critically low, decreasing from 36.2% last week to 34.9% this week, still under 40%.

The Western Cape System with six dams serving the City of Cape Town was at 36, 9% last week but dipped to 35, 7% this week. The system was at 43 % around this time last year.

The Algoa System with five dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay was 52, 2% last week, it has now increased to 53% this week. The system was recorded at 89, 6% last year during the same period.

The Amatole System with six dams serving Buffalo City was 72, 4% last week and it has remained at the same level this week. The reservoir was measured at 92% last year around the same period.



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The Umgeni System, with five dam serving Ethekewini and Musunduzi, was at 48, 7% last week and this week the dam levels have increased to 49, 8%. The system was at 58, 7% during the same period last year.

The Bloemfontein System with four dams serving Mangaung was 37, 9% last week and there has been a noticeable increase this week to 41, 6%. It was recorded as lowest during the same period last year at 30%.

The Polokwane System decreased from 52, 2% last week to 51, 6% this week. It was at 50, 9% last year.

The Integrated Vaal River Systems consisting of 14 dams which mainly serve Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom increased from 65, 5% last week to 67, 5% this week. At the same period last year the system was at 59%.

The Department of Water and Sanitation wishes to encourage water users to continue using water responsibly and to adhere to water restrictions imposed by their respective Municipalities.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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