



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

South Africa's dam levels drop slightly this week

16 August 2017

South African dam levels have dropped slightly from 69,1% to 68,6% this week, according to a weekly report published by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Mid-August brings with it heavy rains in the Cape Town area whilst characteristically low winter rainfalls remain the norm for most of the country. The Western Cape is currently experiencing much needed rain but residents have been warned to continue to use water sparingly. There has been 80% of rain for the Cape Town region, 60% for the winelands and interior and 30% for the rest of the province. The Theewaterskloof is currently up at 23,9% from 22,4%. Leeugamka is at 15,2% down from 15,4% but still up from last year's 14,5%. Voelvlei has increased slightly to 22,9% from 22,4%. Last year it was at 57,7% around the same time proving that we are not yet out of the woods with regard to the drought situation. In the Eastern Cape dam levels have dropped to 56,1%. In the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro the municipality has introduced stringent water restrictions in order to reduce water usage. Kouga is at 15,8%, a slight increase from 14,8% last week. Dams that supply Butterworth are critically low. Gcuwa is at 26,6% a decrease of 9,1% from 35,7% last week. Xilinxha is at 0,2% from 0,3% last week. Toleni is at 13,9% from 19,7% last week. The Amathole District Municipality has implemented various alternative measures to alleviate water shortages since Butterworth was declared a disaster area in January this year. However, rains and even snow has been predicted for this week and it is hoped that it will deliver the much needed relief.

In Gauteng the Vaal Dam is at 91,5% a slight decrease from 92,4% the week before. Vaal Dam's level is further stabilised by water flowing from Katse and Polihali dams in Lesotho which is part of an agreement between South Africa and the Mountain Kingdom. The dam levels remain impressively high considering that the area was in the middle of a devastating drought only a few months back.

The Inanda Dam in KwaZulu-Natal is at 62,3% from 63,1% last week. Last year at this time it was at 66%. Midmar is at 72,0% from 73,0% last week. Last year at the same time it was at 45,8%. Hazelmere has decreased to 107,9% from 109,6% last week. Hazelmere supplies



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Ethekwini and the outlying towns such as Zimbali, Ballito, Tongaat on the north coast .The entire Kwazulu-Natal province is at 53,1% ,a decrease from 53,6% last week .Last year this time the province was at 44,5%.

The Free State province decreased slightly from 80,6% to 80,1%.The same time last year it was at 55,0%.The North West province was at 85,9% last week and is now down to 85,2%.The same time last year it was at 65,0%. North West alone boasts dams such as Elandskuil , Klipdrift and Potchefstroom all which are above 100% each.

Northern Cape province is at 89,5% this week ,a decrease of 0,6% from 90,1% last week .Spitskop in the Northern Cape is at 91,6% down by 1,3% from 92,9 last week

The Limpopo province is at 75,5% down from 76,2% last week.Limpopo's dams such as Magoebaskloof (Tzaneen), Hans Merensky (Phalaborwa), Vergelegen and Ebenezer are above 100% each.

The Mpumalanga province dam levels are at 75,8% having dropped from 76,2% last week. Mpumalanga has dams such as the Blyderivierpoort, Buffelskloof, Tonteldoos and Witbank whose average level is 100%.

The current national overall dam levels are higher than the same time last year when they were at 53, 2% at the height of the drought attributed to the El Nino effect which swept the country .As we approach the rainy season which is due in two months, the Department of Water and Sanitation urges the public to save water due to uncertainty about rainfall patterns.

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