



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Spring Day brings with it hopes of rains in the new season

13 September 2017

South Africa's dam levels last week dropped by one percent from 67,2% to 66,6% a weekly report by the Department of Water and Sanitation stated this week

The report said that no heavy rains are expected at the beginning of summer season in South Africa. Heavy showers are predicted towards the end of this period. The Department last week announced that although it is still too early to predict, the El Nino phenomenon that brings with it the drought, will not hit South Africa this summer. This comes at the backdrop of concerns that due to global warming the earth set a series of records in 2016: including hottest year in modern times, highest sea level and most heat-trapping gases ever emitted, according to a global climate report.

South Africans are wondering if the country will experience the normal good rains this summer due to global warming? Weather forecasters have predicted a searing season with heavy downpours in mid-summer between December and March. However, currently the country's dam levels are continuing with their slight decline but there are hopes of recovery during the rainy season. The drought-stricken Western Cape remain a concern despite a slight improve last week when the showers increased the provincial dam levels to a steady 35%,3 Cape Town, with its mediterranean weather, has also benefitted from recent rains, even though tight water restrictions remain in place.

Theewaterskloof Dam is 28,1% (2016: 52,4%); Voëlsvlei Dam is at 27,0% (2016: 67,6%) and Clanwilliam Dam 39,8% (2016: 100,4%). The average dam levels for the province at this time last year was 61,9% compared to last week's average of 33,7%. The provincial government has implemented Level 5 water restrictions and has come up with contingency measures to turn the situation around

In Gauteng the Witwatersrand region is experiencing an unprecedented heatwave whose temperatures have sky-rocketed to an average 30 degrees Celsius in the past two weeks. However, the Vaal Dam is steady at 87,8% compared to last week when it was 88,5%. Low rainfall during the winter months 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 31,3% from 31,6%. Last year the system was recorded at 72,2%. Kouga is at 14,7% from 14,8% last week. Impofu is at 55,0%; last year at the same time it was at 83,5%. Loerie is at 68,7% down from 74,3% whilst Groendal is at 49,2% from 49,7%.

The Amathole System, with 6 dams serving Buffalo City decreased from 61,7% to 61,1% as opposed to last year this time when it was 81,3%.

In the Free State the Bloemfontein System, with 4 dams serving mainly Mangaung, decreased by 0,6% from 39,8% to 39,2%. The dam was at 36,3% 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 92,6% this week. Last week it was at 93,7%. The system was recorded at 91,6% last year.



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The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) that has 14 dams serving mainly Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom, decreased by 0.5% from 77,6 to 77,1%. The system was at 53,0% in the same period last year.

The Umgeni Dam system in KwaZulu-Natal with five dams serving eThekweni and Msunduzi in Pietermaritzburg, decreased from 56,1% to 55,4%. The system was at 45,7% in the same period last year.

The Northern Cape province is at 88,4% this week, a decrease of 0,8% from 93,2% last week. Spitskop in the Northern Cape is at 88,2% down from 89,5 last week.

Limpopo's dams are almost full with Mokolo at 94,1%, Nandoni at 98,8% and De Hoop at 97,7%.

The Mpumalanga dam levels are at an average 73,1% from 73,9% last week. The provincial dams are performing satisfactorily with the Blyderivierpoort at 93,3%, Loskop at 95,4% and Ohrigstad at 71,2%.

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