



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Water Status in the Northern Cape

20 June 2017

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in the Northern Cape welcomes the rain that increased the Karee Dam level from 0% to 14% this week according to the DWS' weekly reservoirs report.

The Karee Dam supplies water to the community of Calvinia and has been empty since 2016. The community has been receiving water from seven boreholes refurbished as part of drought relief intervention in the Northern Cape. The boreholes contribute approximately 55 kilolitres of water per hour and are connected to the town's water supply network.

The drought situation remains critical in the whole Hantam municipal area which has also been declared a disaster area. The annual average rainfall for the region is approximately 200 mm and occurs mostly in the winter months. During the 2016 winter rainfall season, only 30 mm of rainfall occurred.

Residents are urged to continue using water sparingly and the water restrictions in the area remain in place with water-use limited to potable use only. The Department of Water and Sanitation in cooperation with Hantam Local Municipality continues to monitor groundwater levels in the Hantam Local Municipality to ensure sustainable water supply and water quality.

The Weekly Reservoirs Report this week indicates that the Orange and Vaal Rivers in the Northern Cape are at 76% and 93.4% full respectively. Spitskop is 96.4%, Vaalharts storage weir 87.4%, Douglas storage weir 107.8% and Boegoeberg in the Orange River is at 102.9%

Water conservation and water demand management are high priorities for the DWS. Water restrictions have already been implemented on the Vaal River and Orange River systems since August 2016. There is a 10% restriction on water for domestic and industrial use, and a 15% restriction for irrigation purposes in the Orange River system. For the Vaal River system, a 15% restriction for domestic and industrial and a 20% for irrigation use was gazetted.

As part of promoting water conservation, the Drop-the-block campaign in the Northern Cape has distributed 173 250 plastic blocks throughout the Northern Cape Province. These blocks are placed within toilet cisterns to lower the volume of water consumed during flushing.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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