



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Stringent water restrictions needed to avoid water shortages in drought stricken areas of Eastern Cape

05 September 2018

The weekly dam levels report issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) reveals that Eastern Cape water levels have declined from 61.2% last week to 60.9% this week.

Recent rainfalls in some parts of the province have made no significant impact, particularly in the western part of the province such as Nelson Mandela Bay, Sarah Baartman District Municipality and Kouga Local Municipality. The combined average dam levels of Algao Water System Supply – with dams serving the Nelson Mandela Bay (Kouga and Sarah Baartman) – is at 17.82%, this being a decline from last week's 18%. This system is really struggling as it was at 31.7% during the same period last year. Concerted efforts are needed for all water users to save water.

The following dams – serving the NMB, SBDM and Kouga – and are below average.

- Kouga Dam remains at 6.7%
- Impofu Dam declined from 27.6% last week to 27.2% this week
- Churchil Dam is sitting at 16.4% this week

To assist the drought stricken Kouga area, the department has made some temporary intervention by supplying water tankers to the most affected townships.

There is a slight decline in dams feeding Klipplaat Water Supply System. The combined average of this system is 69.8% this week, compared to 70.5% reported last week. The situation in the eastern side of this province – with dams such as Mthatha, Mabeleni, Corana and Gcuwa – is much better as the dams are sitting just above 80% this week.

DWS appeals to municipalities in drought stricken areas to implement stringent water restrictions, and water users are urged to adhere to these restrictions and also conserve water.



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