



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Eastern Cape dam levels improve due to recent rains

12 September 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Eastern Cape is pleased to announce the improvement of water levels in the drought stricken areas of Nelson Mandela Bay, Sarah Baartman and Kouga Local Municipality due to rain downpours of the last weekend.

The average provincial water storage improved from last week's 60.9%, to 65.0% this week, however, the province remains a disaster area as pronounced by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs early this year.

The Algoa Water Supply System with dams supplying water to Nelson Mandela Bay and and Kouga Local Municipality has improved significantly from last week's 17.8% to 39.9 % this week. This was a sharp improvement compared to the same period last year when the system was at 31.3%. . Dams in the system such as Kouga, Churchill, Loerie, and Impofu were distressed in recent months but they have improved sharply this week.

Kouga Dam, which was on the verge of running dry, improved from 6.8% last week to 35.6% this week. Churchill Dam is sitting at 90.4%, Impofu Dam at 31.2%, and Loerie Dam remain at 100%.

Even though there has been improvement in water levels, water users are urged to not to get too excited as the province is not out of the woods yet. DWS would like to reiterate that water restrictions will remain in place and everyone is urged to adhere to them and save water.

Xilinx Dam is sitting at 45.5% this week, Bridle Drift is at 63.8%, Nahoon it at 70.0%, and Laing is sitting at 98.5%. Mthatha Dam in the O.R. Tambo District remain at 99.7% this week. Chris Hani dams such as Gubu Dam gained little water from these recent rainfall, now it is sitting at 96.2 % this week.

End

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