



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# MEDIA STATEMENT

## Good rains continue in the Western Cape

18 September 2018

Despite a scorching heat wave that has engulfed the interior parts of South Africa, dam levels in Western Cape remain consistent with the latest reports indicating improvement from 60,6% to 61,6% this week. This is a sharp contrast to the water situation in the province at the beginning of the year when dam levels were below 20%.

A weekly report released by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) suggests fortunes for the Western Cape, with the SA Weather Services predicting more rains this week. Subsequently, the City of Cape Town has proposed the relaxation water restrictions to Level 5 as well as the reduction of water tariffs with effect from 1 October 2018. However, the Department of Water and Sanitation insists that Capetonians are not out of the woods yet and has called on residents to continue saving water..

Levels at the Theewaterskloof Dam which supplies the City of Cape Town have increased from 51,1% to 52,1% compared to 28,1% a year ago. However, despite the good rains, the department will only review the current water restrictions only when the dam levels have reached 85% capacity.

The Cape Town Dams System, with six dams supplying the Cape Town Metro, has increased from 68,9% to 69,7%. The system was at 37,2% at the same time last year. Clanwilliam is up from 99,0% to 99,4%; last year at the same time it was at 40,7%. Voelvlei increased from 81,1% to 83,7%

The report reveals a steady decline of average national dam levels as we leave winter behind. They were recorded at 76,8% last week but this week they are standing at 76,4%. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) continues to appeal to every South African to continue to conserve water.

The Vaal Dam in Gauteng decreased from 92,0% to 90,7% this week. The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS), consisting of 14 dams and serving mainly Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom decreased from 81,2% to 80,5%. The system was at 76,2% during the same time last year.

Eastern Cape remains of concern after Kouga was recorded at 6,8% two weeks ago but has now recovered to 45,7% after good rains were experienced in the province. The Algoa System with 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay increased from 39,9% to 49,1%. Last year the system stood at 31,4%. Loerie increased from 90,2% to 100,5%. Groendal is at 48,2% and Impofu Dam recorded 34,7%.

In the Eastern Cape the Amathole System which has six dams that serve East London, decreased from 81,6% last week to 81,5%. Bridle Drift is at 63,8% while Nahoon is at 68,5% and Laing dam is at 99,9%.

In the North West, Madikwe is at 45,2%, Roodekopjes decreased by 5,2% from 85,2% to 80,0%. Haartebeespoort decreased from 93,9% to 91,8% and Setumo decreased from 70,7% to 70,4%.



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The Umgeni Dam System in KwaZulu-Natal which boasts five dams that serve eThekweni and Msunduzi in Pietermaritzburg, decreased slightly from 71,0% to 70,4%. The system was at 54,6% in the same period last year. Midmar Dam decreased by a fraction from 94,9% to 94,8% while Inanda decreased slightly from 68,0% to 67,9%.

Northern Cape experienced a 2,1% increase from 85,0% to 87,1% this week. Spitskop Dam decreased from 86,1% to 85,7%. In the Free State province dam levels decreased from 90,9% to 90,2%. During the same time last year they were at 76,1%. Rustfontein increased from 36,2% to 36,6%.

In Limpopo the average dam levels decreased from 68,5% to 67,8%. Luphephe decreased from 79,2% to 78,4%. Last year at the same time it was at 68,9%. Vondo is down from 94,6% to 94,4% and Albasini decreased from 82,9% to 82,5%.

In Mpumalanga the average dam levels decreased from 75,7% to 74,7%. Loskop is down from 94,9% to 93,8% while Witbank decreased from 97,1% to 96,6%.

- Some of the dams that have remained high despite the soaring temperatures include: Roode Elsberg in Western Cape, 100,1%
- Bon Accord, Gauteng, 100,6%
- Stettynskloof, Western Cape, 101,2%
- Elandskloof, Western Cape, 100,8%
- Saulspoort, Free State, 102,4%
- Kromrivier, Eastern Cape, 100,6%
- Tonteldoos, Limpopo, 100,3%
- Driel Barrage, KwaZulu Natal, 103,3%
- Hans Meresky, Limpopo, 100,0%

**End**

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