



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Heatwave continues to affect dam levels as temperatures soar

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The heatwave in most parts of South Africa is reducing dam levels at an alarming rate and there are fears that unless it starts raining heavily, the country may end up with half the water resources it has currently. The country's dam levels dropped by 0,8% to 70,5% this week.

This week temperatures soared to the mid-40s and mid-30s in Northern Cape and Gauteng respectively. This prompted the Department of Water and Sanitation to call on citizens to stay indoors during the day and consume surfeits of water to calm their bodies.

Of particular concern though, is North West province where dams are almost half-full at 55,9%, having dropped from 56,8% last week. The current provincial levels are a sharp contrast to the same period last year when the dam levels were 73,5%. The situation is particularly dire in Ngaka Modiri, Taung and Ruth Mompati where it has not rained for about two months in a row.

Disaneng Dam was recorded at 47,2% a slight decrease from 50,5% last week. The Crocodile West system which has six dams serving mainly Tshwane, Madibeng and Rustenburg, seems to be the only one with high volumes of water at 75,2%. In the same period last year the system was at 84,6%.

Even more worrying is the water situation in Lesotho where dam levels have dropped to an all-time low of 36,4%. The Mountain Kingdom is an important strategic water partner with South Africa where it supplies the colourless resource to the Vaal Dam.

Despite the heatwave however, Gauteng is almost full to capacity with dam levels averaging 97%. The water situation in the province has improved by 12,5% compared to the same period last year.

In Kwazulu-Natal, Dam levels have increased by a fraction from 58,6% last week to 58,7% this week. The Umgeni Dam system in KwaZulu-Natal with five dams serving eThekweni and Msunduzi in Pietermaritzburg, has decreased from 66,0% last week to 65,3%. The system was at 52,8% in the same period last year. Midmar decreased from 95,0% to 94,9%. Albert-Falls decreased from 44,0% to 43,1% and Inanda decreased from 64,2% to 63,5%.

In Mpumalanga, the dam levels have decreased from 70,4% to 69,5% this week. The Witbank is at 92,2%, Ohrigstad at 8,5% and Blyderivierpoort at 50,3%.

In the Eastern Cape the Algoa System with 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay is at 53,8% down from 54,2% last week. Last year the system was recorded at 28,6%. Kouga decreased from 54,1% to 53,7%. Impofu decreased by a fraction from 37,8% to 37,6%; last year at the



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same time it was at 49,8%. Haarlem decreased from 98,4% to 97,5% whilst Groendal decreased from 61,3% to 60,6% .

The Amathole System, with 6 dams serving Buffalo City decreased from 76,2% to 75,0% . Last year this time it was at 67,3%.

The Vaal Dam has decreased from 82,5% to 81,4% . The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) decreased by 0.8% from 75,4 to 74,6%. The system was at 71,1% in the same period last year.

Cape Town also experienced heatwave last week which was followed by rainfall . Dam levels in the province have decreased slightly from 64,1% to 63,2% this week. The Theewaterskloof Dam is at 56,7% (2017: 24,9%) ; Clanwilliam is at 94,1%(2017:36,7%) and Voelvlei is at 93,8% (2017:27,5%) .

In Limpopo Magoebaskloof is full at 100,0%, Nandoni at 94,5% and Mokolo at 74,1%.

Currently the Bloemfontein System, with 4 dams serving mainly Mangaung , decreased from 63,0% to 60,4%. The system was at 32,9% during the same time last year

The Northern Cape province decreased from 78,3% last week to 74,3% this week . Karee in the Northern Cape decreased by a fraction from 54,7% to 53,0%. Last year at the same time it was at 0,3% .

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