



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Heavy rains improve Western Cape dams substantially

4 July 2018

Western Cape dam levels have risen to a mammoth 41,6%, thanks to persistent rains that have drenched major parts of the province in what looks like a bumper rainy season that has the potential of breaking the two-old drought.

The South African Weather Services has predicted more rains for the region in the coming weeks and emergency officers have been put on a stand-by to handle a potential natural disaster in the form of floods.

As a result, most parts of the low-lying peninsula in the Cape Flats were flooded, leaving hundreds of shack dwellers with the headache of mopping excessive water that partly destroyed their structures. However, no casualties were reported by the emergency services.

A weekly report by the Department of Water and Sanitation shows that statistically, dam levels that were recorded at an all-time low three months ago, are rising by five percent week-on-week, a phenomena that gives hope that by the end of the rain season later this year the water situation in the region will have improved drastically. It is too early yet to predict the relaxation of stringent water restrictions that various municipalities imposed last year to save the situation. Despite the improvement of dam levels, the department calls on water users in the province to continue saving water until further notice.

Elsewhere, Gauteng recorded a full capacity of dam levels at 100,3%, followed by Free State and North West at 94,5 % and 93,5% respectively. Against this background, the Integrated Vaal River System that contribute to the Vaal River is fully functional with its 14 tributaries pouring into the Vaal Dam.

Nationally, figures show that the dams with a total capacity of 32 322,6 cubic metres are standing at 79,3% compared to 70,9% last year. This is an improvement of an average 9% year-on-year. Mpumalanga is also showing some improvement with its average 80,5% recorded this week compared 78,% in to2017. A total of 16 dams have filled to capacity this week and they are:

- Stettyskloof, Western Cape – 106,8%
- Tzaneen, Limpopo – 102,2%
- Dap Naude, Limpopo – 102,2%
- Mutshedzi, Limpopo – 102,7%
- Saulspoort, Free State – 102,7%
- Welbedacht, Free State – 100%
- Nwanedzi, Limpopo – 102,7%
- Zaaihoek, KwaZulu-Natal – 100,3%
- Witbank, Mpumalanga – 100,5%
- Buffelspoort, North West – 100%
- Bronkhorstspuit, Mpumalanga – 100%
- Koster, North West – 100%



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- Rust De Winter, Limpopo – 100%
- Loskop, Mpumalanga -100%
- Tonteldoos, Limpopo – 100,3%
- Buffelsjags, Western Cape – 101,4%
- Steenbrasdam, Western Cape – 101,7%
- Klipvoor, North West -100%
- Rhenosterkop, Mpumalanga

Misvertand Dam in Western Cape recorded a whopping 157,4% level, followed by Boegoeberg, Northern Cape with 106,1%. However, in April this year water was released into Misverstand from Berg River to augment its alarming state.

The Department of Water and Sanitation would like to remind water users to adhere to water restrictions imposed by their respective municipalities and use water sparingly.

End

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