



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Lack of rain in major parts of the country decreases dam levels slightly

02 August 2018

Lack of rain in the past week has decreased South Africa's dam levels by a fraction from 78,7% last week to 78,3% this week. This is according to a weekly dam levels report issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation stated on Monday, 30 July 2018.

However, dam levels, according to the report, are significantly higher than the same period last year when they were recorded at 68,6%. This was largely due to the fact that vast parts of the country were recovering from a devastating drought that caused economic and social mayhem in its wake.

Western Cape, however, continues to benefit from the largesse of mother nature as the average provincial dams rose from 50,1% to 50,6%. Despite a stable water situation in the province, the Department of Water and Sanitation insists on retaining the stringent water restrictions that were imposed across the province over a period of two years. The department will only review the restriction at the end of the hydrological cycle in September.

Last week, torrential rains changed the water fortunes in the province when the dam levels rose dramatically from 45% to 51,7% in seven days. Levels at the Theewaterskloof Dam, one of the main six dams that feed Cape Town, has risen to 80,6%, a two percent increase from last week..

Clanwilliam is stable at 98,5%, Voelvlei is up from 57,5% to 58,8%

In Gauteng the Vaal Dam in Gauteng is also stable at 95,8% this week. The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS), consisting of 14 dams and serving mainly Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom decreased slightly from 86,1% to 86,8%. The system was at 81,9% during the same time last year.

Eastern Cape continues to deteriorate with the lowest dam levels in the country. The Algoa System with 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay decreased from 19,7% to a perilous 19,3%. Last year the system stood at 34,2%. Worst still, Kouga Dam decreased from 7,8% to 6,9% this week; Loerie decreased from 69,9%, to 68,3%; Groendal decreased from 39,7% to 39,2%; Nqweba Dam which is supplied by Sundays River slid from 9,6% to 9,4% .

Amathole System which has six dams that serve East London, decreased from 89,9% last week to 89,3% this week. Sandile which supplied Keiskama River plunged from 91,4% to 90,5% this week.

In the North West, Madikwe is at 52,2%, Roodekopjes increased by 0,1% from 101,4% to 101,5%. Haartebeespoort decreased from 97,9% to 97,4% and Setumo decreased from 75,5% to 74,1%.

In KwaZulu-Natal Umgeni Dam System in KwaZulu-Natal which boasts five dams that serve eThekweni and Msunduzi in Pietermaritzburg, decreased slightly from 76,6% to 76,0%. The system was at 61,6% in the same period last year. Midmar Dam decreased by a fraction from 98,7% to 97,7% while Inanda decreased slightly from 73,0% to 72,4%.



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Northern Cape experienced a 6,9% decrease from 92,7% to 85,8% this week. Spitskop Dam remains stable at 93,4%.

In Limpopo the average dam levels decreased from 72,1% to 71,6%. Luphephe decreased from 84, 3% to 83,8%. Last year at the same time it was at 8, 5%. Vondo is down from 100,2% to 100% and Albasini decreased from 98,9% to 98,5%.

In Mpumalanga the average dam levels decreased by a fraction from 79,5% to 79,1%. However, the figure represents a 3% increase compared to the same period last year. Loskop is down by a fraction from 100,3% to 100,1% while Witbank remains the same as last week at 100,5%. Misvertand Dam in Western Cape and Bon Accord in Gauteng are overflowing with water as they reached 112,7% and 105,1% respectively this week.

Some of the dams that have reached their capacity this week include:

- Ebenezer , Limpopo, 101,2%
- Hans Merensky, Limpopo, 10,2%
- Klerkskraal, North West,, 101,4%
- Welbedacht, Western Cape, 100%
- Sterkfontein, Free State, 102,9%
- Sterkspruit, Eastern Cape, 101,7%
- Saulspoort, Free State, 102,9%
- Saulspoort, Free State, 102,7%
- Klerkskraal, North West, 100%
- Stettynskloof, Western Cape 100,8%
- BronkhorstspuitMpumalanga, 100,%
- Nandoni, Limpopo, 10%
- Nwanedzi, Limpopo, 100,7%
- Middelkraal, North West, 100%

End

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