



MEDIA STATEMENT

Rainfall season brings relief to most parts of the country

25 April 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) this week released its weekly report on dam levels which indicates that rains in the past month have brought relief in most parts of the country. As result, the Cape Town's Disaster Risk Management Centre warned of heavy downpours that may lead to localized flooding within the city and its environs.

The report shows that the average dam levels have increased from 80,6% last week to 81,8% this week. Most parts of the country have experienced significant rains over the past month but the Western Cape has always been on the throes of a devastating drought.

On Wednesday 18th April, DWS released five million cubic litres of water from the Berg River Dam to Misverstand Dam. Water was released from the Berg River via a pipe that leads to the Wemmershoek control works. A total of 5.066 million cubic meters was released over a ten day period. The Misverstand Dam supplies municipalities in the West Coast with water for domestic, industrial and agricultural use.

The release of water was stopped in February after agricultural users in both Upper berg and Lower Berg areas reached their restricted quota for 2016/17 irrigation season.

The Cape Town Dams System, with six dams serving mainly the Mother City, has decreased from 20,5% to 19,7%.The system was at 23,0% at the same time last year .Theewaterskloof is at 10,1%; last year at the same time it was at 17,7%. Clanwilliam is at 5,1% and Voelviei is at 13,7%.

The Vaal Dam decreased from 106,87% last week to 105,7%. The Integrated Vaal River System(IVRS), consisting of 14 dams and serving mainly Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom increased from 90,1% to 90,3% .The system was at 86,4% during the same time last year.

The Algoa System with 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay decreased from 24,2% to 23,9%. Last year the system was recorded at 41,6%. Kouga is at 10,4%; Loerie decreased from 94,7% to 92,7%: Groendal is at 48,3% ; Impofu is at 37,2%.

In the Eastern Cape the Amathole System which has six dams that serve East London, remains unchanged at 92,4%. Bridle Drift stands at 81,9% while Nahoon and Laing dams have hit 94,5%.

In the North West, the Rustenburg Dam decreased by one percent from 92,4% to 91,3%. Hartbeespoort Dam went down from 98,6% to 97,8% while Johan Nesor near Taung rose to 92,7%.

The Umgeni Dam System in KwaZulu-Natal with five dams that serve eThekwini and Msunduzi in Pietermaritzburg, increased from 78,1% to 79,0%. The system was at 62,6% in the same period last year. Midmar Dam decreased by a fraction from 100,6% to 100,5% while Inanda increased slightly from 76,3% to 76,8%. eThekwini and its metropolis received widespread rains in the past week. The showers have prompted the Metro Council to review its water restrictions that were imposed two years ago.



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The Northern Cape province is at 87,3% this week, an increase of 5,7% from 81,6% last week. Boegoeberg is at 122,1%, an increase from 108,4% last week.

In Limpopo the average dam levels decreased from 77,2% to 76,7%. Mokolo is at 88,8%. Nandoni is down from 101,4% to 95,9% and De Hoop is at 95,1%.

In Mpumalanga the average dam levels are stable at 82,3%. Last year at the same time the province was at 79,2%. Witbank Dam at Emalahleni is at 99,8% while Bronkhorstspuit rose to a staggering 102,0%.

End

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