



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Torrential rains change the water fortunes in the Western Cape

10 July 2018

Dam levels in Western Cape have risen dramatically from 45% to 51,7% in seven days, thanks to the torrential rains that have fallen in large parts of the province recently. And the South African Weather Services is predicting more wet days in the coming weeks, raising hopes that the wet conditions are finally breaking the straw of a drought that has devastated Western Cape in the past two years.

A weekly report released by the Department of Water and Sanitation suggests a bumper season for crops and stock that were destroyed during the drought.

Levels at the Theewaterskloof Dam, which feeds Cape Town, have almost doubled to an astounding 38,5% compared to 18% 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 serving the Cape Town Metro, has increased from 48,3% to 53,0%.The system was at 24,7% at the same time last year. Clanwilliam is up from 67,7% to 98,3%; last year at the same time it was at 20,6%. Voelvlei increased from 44,7% to 52,2%

Meanwhile, the report paints a stable picture of average national dam levels as they were recorded at 79,3% – the same figure as last week. Comparatively, the average national picture suggests an improved water situation in the country compared to 70,5% in 2017. If every South African continues with heeding the call to save water and use it sparingly, the situation holds a bright future for the country.

Leading the pack is the Vaal Dam in Gauteng, despite a decreased by a fraction to 99,0% this week. The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) – consisting of 14 dams serving mainly Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom – decreased from 86,1% to 85,8% .The system was at 81,9% during the same time last year.

Eastern Cape came out the worst province, with 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 has decreased from 7,8% to 7,4% this week; Loerie decreased from 74,8% to 69,3%: Groendal is at 40,4% ; Impofu is at 30,6%.

In the Eastern Cape the Amathole System – which has six dams that serve East London – decreased from 90,6% last week to 90,3% . Bridle Drift is at 81,9 while Nahoon is at 80,2%. Laing dam is at 98,4%.

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



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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%.

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 73,7% to 72,9%. Luphephe decreased from 86,3% to 85,4%. Last year at the same time it was at 87,1%. Vondo is down from 99,6% to 92,4% and Albasini decreased from 85,7% to 85,5%.

In Mpumalanga the average dam levels remain stagnant at 80,2%. 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%.

- Some of the dams that have reached their capacity include: Elandskloof in Western Cape, 100,8%
- Douglas Storage in Northern Cape, 108,8%
- Stettynskloof in Western Cape, 101,5%
- Welbedacht in Western Cape, 100%
- Egmont in Free State, 100%
- Sterkspruit in Eastern Cape, 101,7%
- Bloemhof in Free State, 102,7%
- Saulspoort in Free State, 102,7%
- Klerkskraal in North West, 100%
- Boskop in North West, 100%
- Potchefstroom in North West, 101,4%
- Dap Naude in Limpopo, 102,2%
- Vergelegen in Limpopo, 100,2%
- Moegoebaskloof in Limpopo 101,2%

End

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