



MEDIA STATEMENT

Water situation in the Eastern Cape is cause for concern

23 August 2018

Although the average dam levels in the Eastern Cape were, this week, recorded at 61.4%, levels in the Western part of the province remain alarmingly low. Kouga Dam was recorded at 6,87%, prompting the Nelson Mandela Bay to impose stringent water restrictions in the region to cope with the situation.

The dire water situation in the Kouga region has prompted fears of Day Zero, with towns such as Hankey and Pattensie, that depend on Kouga Dam, being left with a month's supply of water before the natural disaster strikes. Consequently, the Department of Water and Sanitation is working with the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro Council to address the situation.

In addition, the Algoa Water Supply System is decreasing its level week-on- week, as it recorded 18.2% this week. The system is serving drought-stricken areas in the province, such as Nelson Mandela Bay and Sarah Baartman Municipalities.

Meanwhile; in other parts of the province – such as Mzimvubu- Tsitsikama Water Management Area – the water situation is not quite as bad. The main reservoir was, this week, recorded at 61.1% compared to 55.2% in the same period last year. Major dams around the province are at a critical position in this period.

The department's report noted an improvement in the Amathole Water Supply System: with dams such as Xilinx sitting at 47.6% this week, compared to 0.2% at this time last year; Nahoon at 72.8% this week compared to last year's 58.1% at this time. Bridle Drift is standing at 64.9% this week, as compared to 42.6% in the previous year at this time.

The area of Chris Hani District is affected by severe drought and its dams are at their lowest ebb. The Klipplaat Water Supply System, with dams servicing Queenstown and Lady Frere, has declined slightly from 70.9% this week, compared to 70.7% .



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Against the background of a looming disaster, the Department is encouraging water users in the province to use water wisely and sparingly, and adhere to the restrictions imposed by their respective municipalities.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact: Mr Sputnik Ratau (Departmental Spokesperson)
082 874 2942 / 012 336 6813 / rataus@dwa.gov.za

Mr Thandile Ngcume (Communication Services)
082 659 1422 / 043 604 5418 / NgcumeT@dws.gov.za

For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal at: www.dwa.gov.za