



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Water storage across Eastern Cape is very low

23 January 2018

Parts of Eastern Cape are faced with acute water shortage as water storages across the province are at 58.9%, according to a weekly report by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

It said drought was still heating some parts of the province such as Nelson Mandela Bay, Chris Hani District and Amathole District.

The current abnormal heat wave has increased evaporation rates and this is one of the reasons for the fall of in the storage capacity levels. Some dams such as Xilinx at Amathole District and Kouga in Nelson Mandela District are sitting at 5.2% and 7.4% respectively while, Oxkraal Dam in Sarah Baartman District is at 26.6%. Mlanga Dam in the OR Tambo District is at 6.5%.

The Department is currently facing serious challenges which include lack of rainfall, ageing and poor maintenance of infrastructure and in some areas, water leaks, water pollution, illegal water connections and heat wave, etc.

Drought is the consequence of the El Nino, a phenomenon that brings about dry conditions in parts of the country. The Department appeals to communities to adhere to the municipality's restrictions in order to save water.

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