



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Water users advised to use water wisely

10 August 2018

A weekly report issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) this week shows that South Africa's dam levels have decreased fractionally from 78,3% last week to 77,9% this week. However the levels are significantly higher than in the same period last year when they were at 68,3%.

Eastern Cape dam levels are critically low due to less rainfall in the past few months and Kouga Dam which supplies certain Eastern Cape towns is now at 6,8% down from 6,9% of its capacity. Last year at the same time it was at 15,0%. The Mayor of Kouga Municipality has announced water restrictions for the towns of Hankey and Patensie which started on Monday. Kromrivier is at 15,9% and Impofu is at 28,7% down from 29,5%. Loerie is at 71,5% and Groendal decreased from 39,2% to 37,8%. Last year at the same time it was at 50,2%.

A cold front brought rains to parts of the Western Cape on Monday with snowfalls forecast along the Cape fold mountain belt from the Cederberg to the Swartberg. The South African Weather Service (SAWS) has reported that snow is to be expected on the Cederberg, Hottentots Holland, Matroosberg, Hex River, Langeberg and the Swartberg mountains and that rains will increase Cape Town's dam levels. Theewaterskloof Dam levels increased from 41,6% last week to 42,0% this week. Clanwilliam increased from 98,5% to 99,3% and Voelvlei Dam increased from 58,8% to 59,9%. In KwaZulu-Natal the Albert Falls Dam is now at 50,7% down from 51,4% last week. The Umgeni Dam System has decreased from 74,2% last week to 73,4%. The System was at 59,0% in the same period last year. Midmar is at 94,8% and Inanda Dam decreased from 70,3% to 69,7%. DWS is also assessing whether water restrictions should be lifted or should remain.

In Mpumalanga, the dam levels decreased from 79,1% to 78,7%. Last year at the same time it was at 76,4%. Morgenstond remains the same as last week at 79,4%; Nooitgedacht is down from 91,5% to 91,3%, and Driekoppies is at 68,2%.

The Vaal Dam increased slightly from 96,9% last week to 97,4% this week. The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) decreased from 84,5% to 83,9%. The system was at 79,9% in the same period last year.

In Limpopo the Flag Boshielo Dam decreased from 93,1% down to 92,3% and Ebenezer decreased from 84,6% to 83,9% last week.

In the Free State the Bloemfontein System, with 4 dams serving mainly Mangaung, increased from 67,1% to 67,2%. The system was at 43,7% during the same time last year. Rustfontein is down from 39,6% to 38,7%. Last year at the same time it was at 29,9%.

In North West, the The Crocodile West, system which has six dams serving mainly Tshwane, Madibeng and Rustenburg regions, decreased from 90,7% last week to 90,2% this week. The system was recorded at 97,2% last year.



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Northern Cape dams decreased this week from 89,6% to 88,6%, a decrease of 1,0%. Boegoeberg is at 98,0 and Karee decreased from 61,9% to 61,1%. Last year at the same time it was at 8,6%.

The Department of Water and Sanitation continues to advise water users to be cautious on how they consume water by observing water restrictions imposed by their municipalities.

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