



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Weekend downpours bring relief in Eastern Cape, raise dam levels in Western Cape

12 September 2018

In a dramatic turn of weather patterns, weekend rains in the drought-stricken western part of Eastern Cape brought relief to Nelson Mandela Bay and Gamtoos Valley where five citrus towns were fast approaching Day Zero.

Following the rains, local communities - including farmers - in Jeffery's Bay, Oyster Bay, Kouga, Port Elizabeth, Kouga, Patensie, Hankey and Humansdorp are heaving a deep sigh of relief at the prospect of having drinking water at their doorstep.

Tragically, a Nelson Mandela Bay man died from floods during the heavy storms.

As a result of the incessant rains over the weekend, water levels at Kouga Dam rose from a mere 6,8% two weeks ago to a whopping 30,9% this week. The state of water has generally improved in areas that were hitherto depressed from the acute shortage of water.

A weekly report by the Department of Water and Sanitation paints a prosperous picture of the state of water in the western part of the province. Loerie Dam went up from 81,2% to 90,2%. Umtata remains the same as last week at 99,7 and Nahoon decreased from 70,4% to 70,0%. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has welcomed the rains which has resulted in some dams supplying the metro experiencing significant increases. DWS has maintained that water restrictions will remain in place and has asked residents to continue to save water.

In Western Cape dam levels have reached an historic 70% following persistent rains in the province over the weekend. Following the heavy downpours over the weekend, the Deputy Mayor of City of Cape Town, John Nielsen, announced that water restrictions will be relaxed to Level Five from October 1 (2018) and water tariffs will be reduced between 26,6% and 70% per kilolitre.

Theewaterskloof Dam, one of the main six dams that feed Cape Town, has risen from 48,7% to 51,1%. Clanwilliam increased from 98,2% to 99,0% whilst Voelvlei is up from 74,4% to 81,1%.

In Gauteng the Vaal Dam is at 92,0% a slight decrease from 92,8 % the week before. The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) is impressive at 81,2% when compared to the same time last year at 76,9%.

Nationally, water levels are stable with a slight drop from 77,0% to 76,8% this week.

In Kwazulu Natal the Umgeni System which comprises of the Albert Falls, Nagle and Inanda dams decreased by a fraction from 71,3% last week to 71,0%. The Inanda Dam is at 68,0%, Albert Falls decreased from 48,3% to 47,9%; Nagle decreased from 71,5% to 71,3% and Hazelmerre has increased from 68,6% to 69,3%.



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The Free State province dam levels decreased from 91,5% to 90,8%. The same time last year they were 77,0%. The North West province was at 67,2% last week and has now decreased to 66,0%. The same time last year it was at 81,7%. North West boasts dams such as Disaneng at 52,8 and Setumo at 70,7%.

The Northern Cape province is at 85,0% this week, a decrease from 88,5% last week. Karee in the Northern Cape is at 63,6%.

The Limpopo province is at 68,5% down from 68,9% last week. Albasini is at 82,9%, Hans Merensky (Phalaborwa) at 101,2% and Ebenezer at 79,9%.

In Mpumalanga dam levels are at 75,7% having dropped from 76,4% last week. Mpumalanga has dams such as the Witbank at 97,1%, Buffelskloof at 72,4% and Middleburg at 94,8%.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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