



MEDIA STATEMENT

Concern as rainy season fails to impress

23 January 2019

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has appealed for South Africans to intensify their water conservation efforts as dam levels are beginning to dwindle because of poor rainfall in parts of the country.

Ideally, this time of the year the country should be in the middle of heavy rainfalls but erratic rainfall has led dams to continue to plummet while others are stagnant. This week average temperatures rose to 30 degrees celsius which had resulted in increased humidity.

According to a weekly report released by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), dam levels have decreased from 64,3% last week to 63,6% this week.

Makhanda Local Municipality in Eastern Cape is faced with the worst water crisis ever after Makhanda River dropped its level to a mere 6% on this week. Predictions are that the residents of Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown) may soon be queuing for water from water tankers if it does not rain in the next few days. However, the municipality and the Provincial Government have formed a task team to alleviate the water crisis in the area. Generally, the provincial dam levels have decreased by a fraction from 58,% last week to 57,4% this week. The province has the same levels as last year when it recorded 57,4%. Kommando Drift decreased from 7,6% to 6,4% ; Nqweba decreased from 2,8% to 2,4% and Nuwejaars is at 25,0%.

The Algoa Water Supply System decreased from 50,4% to 50,0% .Kouga decreased from 50,7% to 49,7% ,Loerie decreased from 44,5% to 39,2% and Impofu remains the same at 33,7%.

The North West Province is at 58,0% and remains much lower compared to the dam levels recordings in the same period last year. Potchefstroom Dam has decreased from 100,4% to 94,5% this week while Boskop and Taung dams decreased to 67,3% and 82,8% respectively.

In KwaZulu-Natal the Umgeni System which comprises of the Albert Falls, Nagle and Inanda dams decreased from 60,5% last week to 59,9% . The province is higher than the same period last year when it was recorded at 51,2%. The Inanda Dam decreased from 62,0% to 61,6%, Albert Falls water dam levels decreased from 35,4% to 34,4%; Nagle increased from 80,3% to 81% and Hazelmere has decreased from 45,7% to 44,9%.

In the Western Cape dam levels have decreased by 1,8% from 51,4% to 49,6%. The province is higher than the same period last year when it was recorded at 25,3%. The Voelvlei Dam water levels decreased from 80,2% to 78,4%.The Theewaterskloof Dam, has decreased from 48,4% to 47,4%. Calitzdorp has decreased from 8,2% to 7,9% and the Clanwilliam Dam water levels decreased from 63,8% to 57,6% .





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In Gauteng the Vaal Dam decreased from 75,2% recorded last week to 74,1%. The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) decreased from 69,7% to 69,2% when compared to the same time last year at 72,4% .

In Free State Province dam levels have decreased from 73,4% to 72,4% this week. The province is higher than the same period last year when it was recorded at 64,9%.

The Northern Cape Province is at 68,9% this week from 70,5% last week. Boegoeberg increased from 91,3% to 93,9%.

The Limpopo Province increased by a fraction from 60,1% last week to 60,2% this week. The province is lower than the same period last year when it was recorded at 66,1%. The Magoebaskloof Dam (Tzaneen) remains the same at 100,3%. Hans Merensky Dam (Phalaborwa) increased from 100,0% to 100,4% and Flag Boshielo (Polokwane) decreased from 77,6% to 77,4%.

The Mpumalanga Province dam levels has decreased from 67,7% to 67,6% . The province is lower than the same period last year when it was recorded at 76,9%. Witbank has decreased from 88,7% to 88,3%, Loskop increased from 82,7% to 83,0% and Rhenosterkop decreased from 2,8% to 1,9% .

End

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