



MEDIA STATEMENT

Eastern Cape experiences a decline of dam levels due to lack of rains

05 September 2019

Some parts of Eastern Cape are still experiencing a serious drought and most water supply systems are showing a sharp decline in storage levels and are declining weekly.

A weekly report on status of water levels issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has demonstrated a decrease of dam levels with a provincial average at 54.9% this week as compared to 55.5% last week.

Algoa Water Supply System with dams supplying Sarah Baartman District Municipality and Nelson Mandela Bay, has seen a decline from last week's 42.4% to 41.7% this week. The system is better compared to where it was during the same period last year when it was at 18.4%.

Howisons Poort Dam is at 10.9% this week, Settlers Dam is sitting at 6%. Nqweba Dam supplying Graafrinet is sitting at 0.8% this week. Kouga Dam also dropped from 42.3% last week to 41.6% this week.

The Amathole Water Supply System with dams supplying water to Buffalo City has declined sharply. This week the system is at 55.1% compared to 55.7% last week. The system was at 81% during the same period last year.

Bridle Drift Dam dropped to 42.7% this week, compared to 43.1% last week. Nahoon Dam declined from 67.8% last week to 66.8% this week and Gcuwa Dam which is supplying Butterworth improved from 59.1% last week to 87.8% this week.

The drought hotspots areas in Amathole District are Adelaide, Bedford and Hogsback, with critically low dam levels.

OR Tambo District dams are dropping and water restrictions are implemented in some municipalities. Mhlanga Dam decreased to 63.7% this week, compared to 65.2% last week. Nqadu Dam is sitting at 74.1% this week compared to 76.3% last week and Mthatha Dam dropped from 97.6% last week to 97.4% this week.





water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation
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The Department is calling on the water users save water and adhere to water restrictions imposed by municipality.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation on 082 874 2942

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