



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Winter is just around the corner and dams continue to decline

14 March 2019

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) says despite the combined average increase in latest sporadic late summer rains, water saving efforts must always continue.

For those not in the know that is why the month of March has been declared Water Month.

The reality for all of water consumers is that winter is knocking on our front doors and as envisaged, the call to all people from DWS is to use this life-giving resource sparingly. As a society, we have become more and more environmentally conscious and better informed about the effect our lifestyles can have on the world around us. At the same time, the demand for our most valuable natural resource — drinking water — continues to grow while supplies can be threatened by different inputs including drought conditions.

Even though water covers so much of the earth's surface, less than one percent is available for human consumption. We share in the benefits of some of the safest drinking water in the world, and it is incumbent on us all to protect this valuable natural resource for future generations. By making simple but thoughtful changes in our daily routines, we can feel confident that we are doing our part.

According to the weekly national status of dams report issued by DWS on Monday, 11 March 2019, the average dam levels stood at 64, 4%. This is a slight drop of 0, 1% from last week's average of 64, 5%

Significantly though is that in the Western Cape (WC) the City of Cape Town on Monday, 11 March 2019, urged residents to continue saving water despite the easing up of restrictions. Residents are being allowed to water their gardens only after 6 pm or before 9 am on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, for a maximum of one hour.

People have also been urged to only use water-efficient irrigation like dripper systems, drip-lines or soaker hose irrigation systems. Cape Town dam levels are currently at 51, 8%; much higher than last year this time when it was 22, 8%.

The Western Cape Provincial Dam levels are at 40, 0% this week, dropping from 44, 3% last week, while the figures for last year during the same period were 18, 7%.

The Department is still urging residents of the WC and the country at large to continue to save water.

With the dam a level dropping slightly though with some sporadic, but not consistent rainfall far in between, DWS is calling on all South Africans to save water as much as they can to ensure that the country does not run out of water.

North West Province and KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) dams are running at 61, 5% and 62, 5% respectively. North West has lost 0, 3% of its water levels compared to last week's 61, 8% while KZN gained 3, 4% after being down at 59, 9% last week.





## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Here is the full provincial summary.

Provincial Summary	Full Capacity (Million Metres)	Supply Cubic	Water in Storage (Million Metres)	Last Year (%Full)	Last Week (%Full)	This Week (%Full)
Eastern Cape	1807.2		1100.8	64.4	60.1	60.9
Free State	15945.3		11296	69.8	71.6	70.8
Gauteng	128.1		124.8	91.6	99.6	97.5
Kwazulu-Natal	4801.8		3002.2	59.4	59.9	62.5
Lesotho	2362.6		701.8	39.5	30.4	29.7
Limpopo	1522.3		1023.1	67.3	67.1	67.2
Mpumalanga	2538.6		1868.3	77.5	74.1	73.6
Northern Cape	147.3		77.9	76.3	59.7	52.9
North West	868.1		533.9	66.9	61.8	61.5
Swaziland	333.7		334.3	84.2	100.1	100.2
Western Cape - Other Rainfall	268.9		57.4	25.4	18.7	21.4
Western Cape - Winter Rainfall	1596.8		688.5	18.7	44.3	43.1
Western Cape - Total	1865.7		745.9	19.6	40.6	40
GRAND TOTAL	32320.8		20809	63.5	64.5	64.4

In KwaZulu-Natal, the Umgeni Integrated System comprises the Albert Falls, Nagle and Inanda dams.

The Eastern Cape dam levels have increased by a fraction from 60, 1% last week to 60, 9% this week.

The Vaal Dam in Gauteng continues to lose water as it recorded 70,0%, a slight decrease from 70,8% recorded last week. The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) decreased from 68, 4% to 67, 8% week on week; whereas at the same time last year, the system was at 76, 4%.

Free State Province dam levels decreased from 71, 6% to 70, 8%. The dam levels were recorded last year during the same time at 69, 8%.

The Northern Cape Province is at 52, 9% this week, a decrease from 59, 7% from last week.

Limpopo gained slightly to 67, 2% from 67, 1% last week. The provincial level area was recorded at 67, 3% during the same period last year.

Mpumalanga also decreased its levels from 74, 1% to 73, 6%. The province has dams such as the Nooigedacht Longmere Dam and Vygeboom.

DWS would like to remind water users that South Africa is a water scarce country; therefore it is of importance that the current water resources at our disposal are conserved so that our taps do not run dry.





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Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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