



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **The shortage of water is a great worry for the whole country, particularly the Eastern Cape**

02 May 2019

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has warned water users and communities alike to conserve the resource because as we are fast approaching the winter season, the shortage of water remains a great worry for the government.

In an effort to mitigate the situation, the Eastern Cape government has invested R1, 2billion to assist municipalities that are experiencing water shortage as a result of drought.

According to the Weekly Dam Levels Report issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) on Tuesday 30 April 2019, the Eastern Cape dam levels have increased from 62,8% last week to 63,2%.

The recent rains, which caused damages estimated to billions of rands in KwaZulu-Natal and several neighbouring African States, are, on the one hand welcomed as they bring relief in certain areas. On the other hand, they brought hardship to some people because of the destruction they have caused.

Nqadu Dam increased to 90,7% this week compared to 71,7% last week. A staggering 19% increase within a week. Nelson Mandela Bay is amongst the most badly affected municipalities by the drought because Kouga and Impofu Dams that supply water to the area remain low at 46, 1% and 26, 4% respectively.

Although some dams such as Laing and Mthatha have declined, they still remain above 100%.

DWS warned communities that recent rainfalls do not suggest that the water challenges are over.

The department still urges all citizens to exercise caution and use water responsibly to supply the current and future generations.

End



Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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Department of Water and Sanitation South Africa



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