



MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS urges water users to be mindful as the end of the rainy season draws closer

6 March 2019

As we approach the end of the rainy season, South Africa's dam levels have stabilised at 64.9%, a weekly report by the Department of Water and Sanitation has indicated.

The report suggests that the levels are better than the same period last year as they have increased from 63,2% to 64,2% this year.

With the exception of Western Cape, the country's rainy season runs from November to March. Western Cape, a mediterranean region, experiences winter rain from May to August.

This year's dam levels have improved drastically compared to two years ago when large parts of the country were ravaged by the drought, a phenomenon that is attributed to the El Nino. DWS has urged water users in all provinces to continue with their water-saving habits in order to have enough to carry us through the anticipated dry months ahead. Although the report paints a stable water situation across the country with Gauteng province at 99,6%, we are not out of the woods yet.

The heat wave notwithstanding, recent rains have increased dam levels. Western Cape which is the worst performing province as its levels have dropped to 40,6%. Theewaterskloof Dam, which supplies Cape Town has decreased from 41.9% to 40,9%. The same time last year it was critically low at 10,6%. The Cape Town Dams System, with six dams serving the Cape Town Metro has decreased from 54.0% to 52.7%.

Gauteng is on the verge of reaching its capacity as its dam levels have increased from 98,4% by 1,2% to 99,6%. The Vaal dam is at 70,8% having decreased from 71,7% the week before. These figures are welcome given the strategic economic importance of the Vaal dam in Gauteng.

Eastern Cape decreased by a fraction from 60,8% to 60,1%. The Algoa System with 5 dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay decreased from 47,8% to 46,9%. Last year the system stood at a concerning 25,9%. Kouga Dam has decreased from 47,9% to 46,9% this week; Groendal decreased from 57,3% to 55,4% ;Loerie decreased from 42,6% to 41,7% compared to the same time last year when it was high at 82,5%. Kromrivier is at 97,0% and Impofu decreased from 29,9% to 29,3%.

The Amathole System, which has six dams that serve East London, decreased from 65,1% last week to 64.7% .

In the North West, the Haartebeespoort Dam decreased from 97,5% to 97, 1% this week. Sehujwane decreased by a fraction from 91,3% to 91,0%.

KwaZulu-Natal dam levels have increased from 59,5% to 59.9% last week. The Umgeni Dam System which boasts five dams that serve eThekweni and Msunduzi in Pietermaritzburg, increased from 64,4% to 65,3%.The system was at 67,1% in the same period last year.





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Northern Cape dams have decreased from 63,2% to 59,7% this week. Boegoeberg Dam decreased from 88,7% to 87,3%. Karee decreased from 39,5% to 25,9%.

In Limpopo, the average dam levels increased from 66,3% to 67,1%. The Polokwane Water System increased by a fraction from 75,1% to 75,8%.

In Mpumalanga, the average dam levels increased from 73,4% to 74,1%. However, the figure represents a 3,8% increase compared to the same period last year.

The Department of Water and Sanitation applauds water users in the Western Cape for their behavioural change. As a result the province reduced water consumption per household. Consumers are urged to continue to adhere to water restrictions by the municipalities.

End

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