



## water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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# MEDIA STATEMENT

## Rain stabilizes the country's water situation - report

2 December 2020

Recent rains that pounded large parts of the country have stabilized the dam levels across the provinces, according to the latest dam levels report issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

The report estimated the average dam levels at 62,5%, a fractional drop from last week's 62,6%. Water reservoirs have stored an estimated 20026,7 cubic metres (70%) of water. However, with more rains expected in the weeks to come, the levels are expected to increase exponentially.

Eastern Cape is recovering remarkably as the province's dam levels recorded 49,8% this week after they dropped below half in September. The province is in the grip of a four-year drought that has ravaged many regions, leaving residents and agriculture scraping on the surface for water.

Also on the recovery is KwaZulu-Natal whose dams increased slightly from 53,3% to 53,4% this week. The drought-stricken towns of Umkhanyakude and Zululand regions have received large chunks of the rainfall that engulfed the province last week. The South African Weather Services has predicted more rain for the province.

Incessant rains have also improved the water situation in Gauteng after the province recorded a one percent increase from 91,7% to 92,2%. Local residents are hoping for more rainfall to improve the Vaal Dam level after it dropped below 40% last month.

Free State dams remained stable at 72,1%, a figure that reflects a four percent improvement compared to the same period last year. Northern Cape took a knock from last week's 90,1% to 88,8% this week.

North West dams improved slightly after registering 63,6% from last week's 63,2% while Mpumalanga slipped from 63,5% to 63,1%. Limpopo also dropped fractionally from 56,2% to 56%. However, parts of the province such as the Waterberg and Mopani regions are struggling with dry conditions. This week the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, David Mahlobo, together with the Executive Mayor of Modimolle-Mookgopong District Council, Marilyn Van Bade, visited the drought-stricken town of Mookgopong where they decided to



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pump water from a disused tin mine to alleviate the water woes of the locals. They have started negotiations with the mine management to implement the proposal to pump water immediately.

As the rain drenches large parts of the country, the Department of Water and Sanitation has urged South Africans, especially those in rural areas to take the opportunity to harvest as much water as they can in order to sustain them during dry periods

**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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