



MEDIA STATEMENT

21 July 2021

Eastern Cape dam levels see minimal increase ahead of expected cold front

A weekly dam levels status report issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation this week shows a minimal increase of the province's dam levels from 50.4% last week to 50.5% this week. This comes ahead of an expected cold front which will see rainfall in some parts of the province in the week and extending to the weekend.

According to the report, the Algoa Water Supply System (ALWSS), which serves Nelson Mandela Bay Metro (NMBM), recorded a low percentage of 10.1 this week compared to last week's 10.3%.

The department's spokesperson, Sputnik Ratau says the drop in levels in the ALWSS is a sore point.

"The Algoa Supply System not only supplies water to Nelson Mandela Bay but its neighbouring towns as well.

"The already low percentage is worrying and the department is working on interventions to mitigate the water shortage," Ratau said.

Some of the interventions include supplying water through water tankers as an immediate relief to affected areas and the implementation of long-term measures such as the drilling of boreholes.

The Amathole Water Supply System (AMWSS) also dropped from 32.2% last week to 31.8% this week.

The Kliplaat Water Supply System (KWSS) continued with the downward trajectory, registering at 25.0% from 25.7% last week.





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Ratau says the DWS, through its Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG), is completing the Tsomo Water Treatment Works that will serve two Water Service Authorities (WSAs).

“Chris Hani and Amathole District communities are set to benefit from the Bulk Infrastructure Projects which are currently underway. The department has urged residents to continue saving water and report all water leakages and infrastructure vandalism to local authorities,” Ratau said.

Meanwhile, the South African Weather Service said the cold front is expected to bring showers across in the Kouga, Kou-Kamma, Ndlambe, Nelson Mandela Bay, Ngqushwa and Sundays River Valley regions. DWS has since called on members of the community to harvest rain water for reuse purposes.

END

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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