

MEDIA STATEMENT

Shot in the arm for Eastern Cape dams

08 December 2021

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has welcomed the recent rains that fell in some parts of the province recently, with a hope that dam levels in the province will receive a much needed shot in the arm as we enter the summer season.

According to the weekly dam levels report issued by the Department early this week, the provincial water storage received a considerable boost, improving from last week's 50.8% to a significant 52.4% this week. This upshot comes as a relief as the provincial water storage has been lingering just below 50% due to the lack of rains.

The Algoa Water Supply System with dams supplying water to Nelson Mandela Bay and surrounding areas has picked up a bit, albeit still lower, improving to 14.8% this week from equally low 14.4% last week. The system has been struggling to recover for months as the drought phenomenon had caused water challenges in Nelson Mandela Bay, with some major dams in the area, almost empty. One of the major dams in the system, Kouga Dam is slowly picking up, albeit at slow pace. The dam has come a long way, slowly recovering from just a meagre 4% in the last few months to 11.5% currently. Kroomrivier Dam also increased from 15.9% last week to 16.6% this week and Darlington Dam has improved from 41.3% last week to 47.9% this week.

The Mzimvubu- Tsitsikamma Catchment has improved from 50.6% last week to 52.1% this week.

Meanwhile, the Amathole Water Supply System with dams supplying water to Buffalo City Metro and Amathole District Municipality, remains at a low of 27.0% this week. Nahoon Dam has declined from 34.0% last week to 33.4% this week, Rooikrantz Dam has increased from 81.8% last week to 85.0% this week, Gcuwa Dam has dropped from 60.3% last week to 55.5% this week and Laing Dam remain full at 100%.

In contrast, the eastern side of the province, the dam levels are at a stable state. Mthatha Dam remains full at 100%, Mabheleni Dam sitting at 96.8% and Nqadu Dam also sitting at 87.6%.

The Klipplaat Water Supply System with dams supplying water to Chris Hani District with water has improved to 37.6% this week compared to 34.7% last week. Tsojana Dam is sitting at 100% this week compared to 96.5% last week, Macubeni Dam has steadily improved from 84.6% last week to 85.4% this week and Waterdown Dam has improved from 40.9% last week to 45.0% this week.

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Most parts of the province remain water stressed, therefore, the Department would like to appeal to water users to use water sparingly and be mindful that South Africa remains a water scars country.

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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