MEDIA STATEMENT

Eastern Cape residents urged to intensify water conservation as dam levels continue to decrease

05 November 2025

The Department of Water and Sanitation in the Eastern Cape is appealing to all communities and water users to use water sparingly as dam levels across the province continue to decline due to reduced rainfall. The latest Weekly State of Reservoirs Report issued this week shows that the province's average dam storage level has dropped from 76.9% last week to 76.2% this week. While this decline may appear marginal, it reflects a consistent downward trend that requires responsible water use to protect the province's water security going into the summer season.

In the Amathole and Chris Hani Districts, dam levels generally remain above 80%, although several dams experienced slight decreases. Nahoon Dam is currently at 82.1%, down from 84.7% the previous week. Bridle Drift Dam, which supplies the Buffalo City Metro, has also decreased from 91.4% last week to 90.5% this week. Laing Dam remains at full capacity, recording 100.1% this week compared to 100.2% the previous week, while Macubeni Dam remains steady at 91.6%. Waterdown Dam dropped slightly from 99.2% to 98.9%, and Tsojana Dam showed a marginal improvement, moving from 99.7% last week to 99.8% this week.

Meanwhile, the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro system continues to reflect strain. Kouga Dam is currently at 64.3%, down from 65.6% the previous week, and Impofu Dam has eased from 47.0% to 46.7%. Loerie Dam, however, registered an improvement, increasing from 77.1% to 79.1%, while Nqweba Dam in the Sarah Baartman District decreased from 88.9% last week to 87.8% this week.

The Department notes that the continued absence of widespread rainfall across several catchment areas contributes to the slow but steady decline in storage levels. As the rainy season remains unpredictable, saving water is critical to avoiding more severe restrictions later.

Residents are encouraged to reduce daily water use where possible, fix household leakages, reuse water where safe to do so and follow any municipal water use advisories or restrictions put in place. Additionally, municipalities are urged to intensify water leak repairs, enforce demand management programmes and enhance public awareness efforts.

The DWS will continue to monitor dam levels and work closely with municipalities and water boards to ensure sustainable water supply and responsible management across the province and throughout the country.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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