



INTERNET ARTICLE

Some part of South Africa still suffering from effects of drought

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The effects of the devastating drought in 2014 are still felt in most parts of the country, with some dams struggling to recover amid recent rains.

According to this week's dam levels report issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation, the national water storage in the country continues to dwindle at a low of 59.2% compared to the 64.1% during the same period last year.

The recent rainfall did not have a significant impact to increase the levels of our water storage capacity. Certain parts of the country such as Eastern Cape Province, continue to bear the brunt of drought with dams in some areas running dry. This has prompted the Department to make immediate intervention to ensure that taps do not run dry.

The Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation has called on communities and business to reduce water consumption and inculcate the culture of saving water as South Africa is a water scarce country.

"I have instructed the Acting Director General to source more funds to assist all the areas that water stressed currently. However, we cannot do this alone, we need South Africans to understand in our country, we have the highest water usage than the world average. This is while the country receives low rains even in best of times of the rainy seasons".

She called for cooperation through all spheres of government, business, civil society organisations and communities to work together and ensure that the country is water secured.

In Limpopo, the water levels are in a steady decline, dropping to 57.2% this week from 57.5% last week. During the same period last year, the province's water levels were at 60.1%. The economic hub of the country, Gauteng, water levels have seen a decline from 101.3% last week to 99.2% this week. However, this is much better than last year when the levels were at 94.3%.

The drought stricken Eastern Cape, the provincial water storage has plummeted to a low of 45.5%. This is a sharp decline compared to 58.6% during the same period last year, a sign that the province is becoming water stressed.

The Free State province has experienced no decline this week as the water levels are at 65.6% same as last week. However, during the same period last year, the water levels in the province were at 73.4%.

The KwaZulu-Natal province has seen an increase to 54.4% this week from 54.1% last week.

There was also a slight increase in Mpumalanga, with water levels moving to 72.1% this week from 71.4% last week. In Northern Cape, there has been an increase from 74.6% last week to 72.8% this week.





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A slight increase in North West, to 64.8% this week from 64.5% last week.

Western Cape dam levels declined to 55.6% this week compared to the 55.9% last week.

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