



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

Water Restrictions to be intensified in Gauteng

14 October 2016

South Africa has been for the past 2 years affected by the impacts of the El Nino. This has had a major contribution on the hydrological drought, and resulting in the country experiencing the lowest reservoir water levels in more than 10 years.

The impact of this has been most hitting on communities and parts of the country that receive very little rainfall in winter and summer, with some having to go without water in these above normal temperatures.

Gauteng is one of these regions and the Integrated Vaal River System is currently under severe pressure. The system which consists of 14 dams serving mainly Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom has decreased by 0.8% to 50.3 % as at 10 October 2016 compared to 70.6% last year.

On 12 August 2016, the Department of Water and Sanitation gazetted the water restrictions which limit the taking of water from the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) by urban and irrigation users. Urban water use has been curtailed by 15% and irrigation water use reduced by 20%.

The restrictions are being implemented to curb the increased demand and over-use of water by households and industries. They are unavoidable and will remain in place until the situation eases.

With the drought being far from over, South Africans are once again called upon to use water wisely to ensure a steady supply of water.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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