



INTERNET ARTICLE

Week-long rains make a huge difference to the country's dam levels

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Consistent rains that have fallen in large parts of South Africa have increased dam levels to 62,2% at the time when there was panic that the heat wave might impact negatively on the water situation.

Heavy showers this week have raised dam levels by a fraction this week to 62, 6%. The South African Weather Services has predicted more rain until this weekend, raising fears of possible floods in some areas.

DWS advises those who live in areas experiencing severe thunderstorms to be careful of localised flash floods. Communities and businesses should remain vigilant at all times and follow hail and flood warnings. February and March are traditional wet months when South Africa experiences her last rains of the season.

Residents of the Eastern Cape breathed a sigh of relief as intermittent rains raised their dam levels from 58,0% to 59,5%. However, the drought-stricken Kouga Dam continued to slide from 49,2% to 49,1%. Loerie Dam also went down from 44,1% last week to 44,0% this week. Makhanda Dam continued with its perilous slide as the local municipality began tinkering water to locals with water to alleviate the situation.

In Western Cape dam levels have decreased by 1,5% from 46,7% to 45,2%. Voelvlei Dam decreased from 73,2% to 71,5% while Theewaterskloof - one of the main six dams that supply the City of Cape Town – also decreased from 45,3% to 44,1% this week. Berg River also decreased from 81,0% to 78,8%.

Vaal Dam in Gauteng tumbled from 72% to 71,1%. However, with the predicted rainfall, the dam is expected to rise quite substantially. The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) decreased from 68,0% to 67,6% when compared to the same time last year at 74,3 .

KwaZulu Natal's Umgeni System which comprises of the Albert Falls, Nagle and Inanda dams increased by a fraction from 59,0% last week to 59,3% .The Inanda Dam is at 61,2%, Albert Falls water dam levels decreased from 33,2% to 32,6%; Nagle increased from 81,2% to 82,3% and Hazelmere has increased from 44,2% to 44,6%.

The Free State Province dam levels remain unchanged at 70,1%. Last year during the same time they were recorded at 64,9%.The North West Province was at 58,1% last week and has now decreased to 58,0%. Recordings during the same time last year were at 67,5%. North West boasts dams such as Disaneng at 37,1% and Setumo at 56,8%.

Northern Cape Province recorded 68% level this week, a one percent increase from 67,0% from last week. Spitskop Dam in the Northern Cape is at 37,7%.

The Limpopo Province is at 61,2% up from 60,2% last week. Magoebaskloof Dam in Tzaneen and Hans Merensky in Phalaborwa recorded 100,3% and 100,8%, respectively while Flag Boshielo in Polokwane registered 78,6%.



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In Mpumalanga Province dam levels have increased from 68,8% to 69,5%. Witbank Dam recorded 88,6% while Loskop and Middleburg dams recorded 87,2% and 94,3% respectively.

With 11 182,8 cubic metres, Free State managed to store the highest amount of water in its reservoirs this week. The province's dam levels were recorded at 70,1%.

DWS advises residents to be extra cautious with flash floods and stay indoors in the event of them happening in their areas. They must avoid crossing swollen rivers and streams.

Themba Khumalo