

## Water and Sanitation in the News

### **Dam levels on upward trend except in the three Cape provinces: DWS**

Most of the dam levels in the country are on the path to recovery with the exception of all the Cape provinces, which are still struggling, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) said on Monday.

Department spokesperson Sputnik Ratau said the latest figures on dam levels were being finalised and would be released on Tuesday. "Over the past week... we have been on the upward trend. The only places that were struggling were the three Capes – Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Western Cape. On the national average, we have been going up," he said.

"Our national average is now almost 50%. This means, when you look at the national dam levels together, you would get that percentage of capacity. It was 49.3% on Monday last week. "Obviously because the rains have fallen over the last couple of days and also looking at the fact that the Vaal Dam is receiving water from Katse Dam in Lesotho as well as Sterkfontein Dam from the Free State, that has created a change in the kind of figures."

In August, the DWS issued a government gazette compelling municipalities to reduce consumption by 15%. Most municipalities have struggled to reach this target and some have been forced to restrict water supply in certain areas at times to prevent their reservoirs from running dry. While Gauteng has had rainy days over the past week, the province is expecting a heat wave this week which has a direct impact on the demand for water.

Ratau said it was difficult for the department to speculate how long the restrictions on municipalities would last. He added that process of releasing water from Sterkfontein Dam was expected to continue until December when, it is hoped, the Vaal Dam could have recovered sufficiently. "Restrictions must not be looked at as punitive measures. They are meant to assist us to be able to make sure that going forward we continue to have sufficient water," Ratau said.

Source: *TimesLive*, 28 November 2016

Managing South Africa's water resources and related infrastructure (storage, treatment and distribution) needs a holistic approach. The **WAMTechnology** approach to drinking water and waste water management support is comprehensive as it **incorporates all the vital components** needed to ensure efficient and sustainable water supply.



Our **Municipal Assistant™** system has been developed for local operating conditions, which can be deployed immediately. We train, coach, mentor and empower local staff at water and waste water treatment facilities and we ensure that the system remains sustainable through our Service Level Agreements.

Contact us: Tel: +27 (0)21 887 7161

### **Message by Mike Nord – WAMTech Sales Executive**

*Today, many of us will wait in long lines, frustrated and impatient, and fight over the newest gadgets to get the best deals. We spend lots of money on Christmas gifts, or oftentimes on things for ourselves that we don't really need.*

*As you wait in line today, think of these women and children across the world. Think of how much joy they have, waiting in line at the well, simply because they have fresh water. They don't need material items to feel sincere joy – all it takes is water, an aspect of our lives we often take for granted. Our prayer is that we would be able to exude that same joy this Christmas season, knowing that joy doesn't come from buying new things, but in giving thanks for the many things that we already have.*

*One way to give thanks is to give back.*

*Water is a blessing*

WAMTech are specialists in implementing technology systems for improved governance, focussing on Water and Public Health Information Systems

Visit our websites:

[www.wamsys.co.za](http://www.wamsys.co.za)  
[www.municipalassistant.co.za](http://www.municipalassistant.co.za)  
[www.ewisa.co.za](http://www.ewisa.co.za)