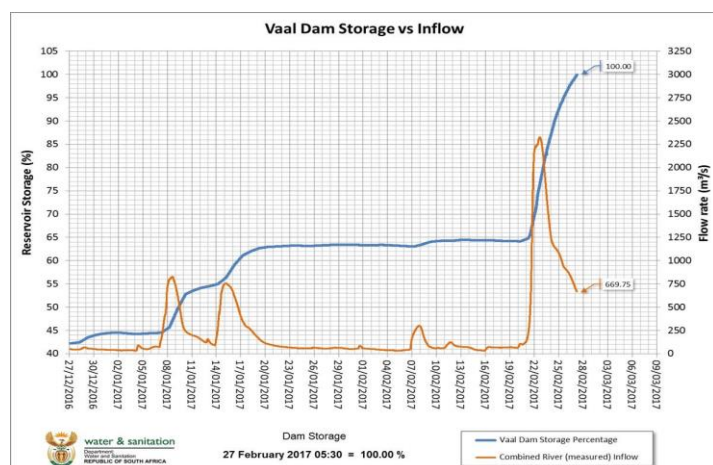


## Water and Sanitation in the News

### Will water restrictions be lifted in other parts of SA?

Water restrictions were lifted with immediate effect in Gauteng on Monday. The announcement was made by the minister of Water and Sanitation Nomvula Mokonyane and follows the excitement about the Vaal Dam approaching maximum capacity.

The Vaal was sitting at 97.8% on Monday morning and by Tuesday it is expected to reach 100%. Most parts of the country, especially the Northern Cape and Gauteng, received high amounts of rain over the last 10 days. This contributed significantly to water levels around the country increasing, with more than 57 dams having reached 100%. Recent rainfall filled all the North West's dams bar from the Molatedi and Groot Marico dams where tributary rivers are swelling.



### Restrictions will remain in other parts of SA

The department said that the decision to relax restrictions in Gauteng does not mean an automatic country-wide moratorium on water restrictions. This is because some regions are still reeling from the effects of the drought which began in South Africa two years ago.

In the Western Cape, restrictions will remain stringent as majority of the province is experiencing the worst drought conditions in its history. The City of Cape Town introduced level 3b water restrictions early this year to try and cope with the severe water shortages. However, the department indicated that restrictions in the province may be reviewed later when winter rains begin to fall in the region.

As for other provinces, water restrictions will remain in place and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis together with their corresponding municipalities and if need be, they too will be

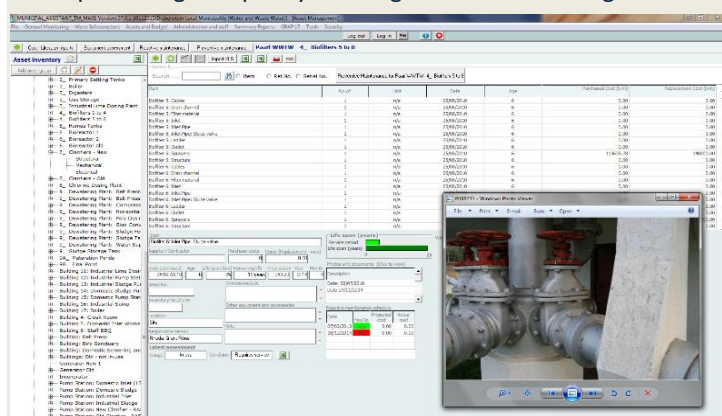
advised to lift the ban. The lifting of restrictions will bring relief to many water users, especially farmers who have been at the receiving end of stringent restrictions because of insufficient water in the last year.

In April 2016, average dam levels in the country were at 54.8% capacity. By December, levels were averaging at 49.1% and by 20 February this year, levels increased dramatically to a national average of 60.5%. The department monitors 211 dams. Of these, 13 are below 10% and 33 are between 10% – 40%...

Sources: [Infrastructurenews.co.za](http://infrastructurenews.co.za), 27 Feb 2017; [eNCA](http://eNCA), 27 Feb 2017

In order for the relief of much needed rain across many parts of South Africa to endure more lastingly, sustainable water management interventions need to be made. Among the key interventions are the implementation of technological solutions aimed at improved operational efficiencies and savings during the treatment and supply of water. The **Municipal Assistant™** is one such important solution – being a software system which facilitates the management, administrative and operational functions of a water care works and related activities. The system has been developed for local operating conditions and **can be deployed immediately**. The MA uniquely combines into a single user friendly system with the following core functionalities:

- Water quality monitoring and management
- Evaluating and reporting compliance with regulatory water quality standards and criteria
- Assists the user in the compilation of various reports (including a Blue Drop/Green Drop reporting facility)
- Asset management to ensure optimal performance of facilities to produce good quality drinking water and discharge



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