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p 7 **Rustenburg: Water Restrictions** issued

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Rustenburg – The Rustenburg Local Municipality's (RLM) communication unit on Friday, 27 May 2016, declared a water restriction in Rustenburg. Their report reads, "According to the Department of Water Affairs, El Niño is declining, but tough times are still ahead." El Niño essentially refers to the warm phase' of the Southern Oscillation (commonly called the ENSO) and is associated with a band of warm ocean water that develops in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific.

The El Niño, which engendered the worst drought in the history of South Africa, is rapidly declining with climate models indicating a return to neutral (normal) during the month of May 2016.

The RLM's report further states that there is a likelihood of the El Niño being succeeded by the La Niña phenomenon later this year, a report compiled by the World Meteorological Organisation. The La Niña is generally known as a wet phenomenon that normally brings with it heavy rains which often result in flash floods. This means that South Africa is likely to hop from one natural disaster (drought) to another (floods).

Dam levels are not improving despite some heavy rains in the past few days. The levels hover around 54,1%, an alarming figure compared to 77,7% in the same period last year.

"While the El Niño will still have some influence until mid-year, there is an increasing likelihood of a La Niña in the 3rd quarter. A resurgence of the El Niño is highly unlikely in 2016," the report said.

The rain last week did not make any significant impact on dam levels. Only a slight increase in the Free State, Gauteng and North West was recorded.

The Cape Town dams system is at 29.7% compared with 31.2% last week, a fall off of 0.5%. The Voelvlei dam is at 17.1% compared with 21.9% last week, a decrease of 4.8%. Umgeni Dam system in KwaZulu-Natal is at 54.7% compared with 55.1% last week, a drop of 0.4% Hazelmere is at 45.9% compared with 43.4% last week an, increase of 2.5% due to coastal rain and transfers from the uThongathi River that are still taking place.

Nagel Dam stands at 76.1% compared with 78.5% last. The Klipfontein is at 18.5% Goedertrouw at 20.4% and Hluhluwe 16.6% all are dangerously low. The Vaal River System is at 63.9% compared with 64.1% last week, a drop of 0.2%. Katse Dam levels are 62.7%, indicating a decrease of 0.4% from the

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previous week. The Vaal Dam is down to 41.9%. This is the fifth consecutive week we see a falloff in the Vaal Dam. The Sterkfontein Dam, which feeds the Vaal Dam, showed a decrease of 0.1%

to 88.8% and the Grootdraai Dam decreased by 0.6% is now at 88.6%. Orange River: The Gariep dam is at 53.9% an increase of 0.9% and Van Der Kloof Dam 63% increase of 1.2%.

Of the 211 dams being monitored on a weekly basis, 70 are below 40% of capacity while 19 of them are at 100%. Water in storage remains a matter of serious concern for dams in the Free State, Western Cape, KZN and the North West.

Rustenburg will have to keep water restrictions in place to ensure that we conserve water for the spring before the first spring rains. Conservation measures and enforcement of restrictions are important to ensure that we see through the winter and the early summer. South Africa should brace itself for a very tough winter ahead.

Rustenburg has the following water restrictions in place (restrictions are on all consumers):

- Watering (with drinking water from municipal supply) of gardens, flower beds, sports fields, parks, lawns and other open spaces allowed for a maximum of one hour per premises per day. This includes watering with buckets or automated sprinkler systems.
- No watering will be permitted within 24 hours of rainfall that provides adequate saturation. Facilities/ customers making use of boreholes or other sources are not exempt from this.
- When watering gardens, parks, open spaces, etc. with alternative water resources (e.g. boreholes, well-points, grey-water, treated effluent, spring water or rain water harvesting; you are encouraged to do so only before 09:00 or after 16:00.
- If alternative water sources are utilised, all customers must ensure that they display the appropriate signage to this effect clearly visible from a public thoroughfare.
- Special users (e.g. golf courses and schools) can apply to the Director Water & Sanitation for exemption to any of the above.
 - No automatic top-up systems are allowed for swimming pools. It is rec ommended that all swimming pools be covered by a pool

cover to avoid evaporation when not in use. · Ornamental water fountains/ water features to be operated only by recycling the water. Restrictions applicable to

residential customers. · Washing of vehicles (including recreational vehicles and watercraft) allowed only with hosepipes fitted with automat-

ic self-closing devices, or with waterless products. · Limited washing or hosing down of hard-surfaced or

paved areas with drinking water from a tap is allowed. · All taps, showerheads and other plumbing components

encouraged to be replaced with water efficient parts/ technologies.

Rustenburg has the following water restrictions in place: Businesses: Commercial & Industrial: · Watering of plants in nurseries, farms, vegetable gar-

dens, etc. for commercial gain will be exempted from the water restrictions subject on availability of water.

· When washing vehicles and/or equipment (including commercial car wash facilities), use only water efficient/ water recycling technology and equipment or waterless products. Display of water saving and water efficiency messages encouraged.

· All taps, showerheads and other plumbing components in public places must be replaced with water efficient parts/ technologies.

Rustenburg has the following water restrictions in place: Institutions & Government Departments:

 Watering of plants in council/ other government nurseries will be exempted from the water restrictions subject on availability of water.

· Washing of vehicles only allowed with hosepipes fitted with automatic self-closing devices, or with waterless products.

· Washing or hosing down of hard-surfaced or paved areas with drinking water from a tap is allowed subject on availability of water

· All taps, showerheads and other plumbing components in public places must be replaced with water efficient parts/ technologies



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