



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **MEDIA STATEMENT**

#### **Dam Levels - Need for Intensive Water Conservation Efforts**

**24 JANUARY 2017**

The recent rains in the last couple of weeks have brought some much needed relief to some parts of the country and increased the levels in most dams in the affected areas. This increase in dam levels does not imply that the public can use water in an irresponsible manner because when the rain stops, dam levels decrease again.

The Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 23 January 2017, shows that there was a slight increase in dam levels in most parts of the country. The report also shows that some dams have started to decrease in capacity since the rains have stopped.

The total storage capacity of the dams monitored in the Mpumalanga Province show a slight increase of about of about 0.4% from last week's 64.9% to 65.3% as measured on 23 January 2017. Some dams have recorded minor decreases and others experienced some increases in water capacity whilst some remain unchanged.

Dams that recorded decreases in capacity include Witbank Dam from 94.4% to 93.3%, Middelburg Dam from 48.1% to 47.1%, Grootdraai Dam from 100.6% to 100.0% and Nooigedacht Dam decreases in capacity from 73.7% to 73.3%.



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Dams that recorded increases in capacity include Kwena Dam from 38.1% to 40.6%, Da Gama Dam from 49.9% to 52.1%, Inyaka Dam from 63.4% to 65.1%, Witklip Dam from 36.1% to 39.0%, Driekoppies Dam from 23.4% to 24.6%, Vygeboom Dam from 98.1% to 99.5%, Loskop Dam from 57.0% to 58.6% and Ohrigstad Dam increased from 27.3 to 29.9%.

Jericho Dam's water storage capacity remained unchanged from last week's recorded capacity of 77.2%

Although good rains are still forecasted in the short term, it is unlikely to be enough for dams to recover fully. It is crucial that we intensify the water conservation initiatives and restrictions to ensure that we stretch the available water supplies to last the nation longer.

DWS would like to encourage the South African public to continue using water wisely and conserve this special resource. Water conservation is crucial for water security, therefore it is important to practice water conservation in all our activities. We need to always remember that water is life and has no substitute.

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

**For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau at 082 874 2942**

**For further enquiries contact: Themba Khoza on 082 600 5666**

**For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal at: [www.dwa.gov.za](http://www.dwa.gov.za)**