



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

IVRS levels decrease slightly as chances of rain remain low

01 November 2017

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) this week slightly fell to lower levels, but remains significantly much stable compared with the corresponding period last year. Currently the IVRS is at 72.7%, slightly down from last week's 73.3%. This is up from the 49.1% during the same period last year.

This week the system has recorded a drop by 0.6%, indicating that it is on the downturn week-on-week.

The IVRS consists of 14 dams which are vital for Gauteng and thus its decline does not bode well for the economic stability of the province. In addition to serving the province, the system also supplies water to Sasol and Eskom.

Showing no improvement from last week, the Vaal Dam has further decreased this week to 81.8% after falling down by 0.9% from 82.7% last week. At the same time last year the Vaal was a gloomy picture, floating at a low of 27.1%.

Although slightly up from last week, the Katse Dam is still at a shrunken level at 30.9%. Still hovering well below the 50% mark, the dam shows no notable improvement as it was sitting at 30.6% last week. The increase has been a negligible 0.3%. Compared to same period last year Katse was 38.8% full.

The Groodraai Dam is also grappling to make headways as it has this week recorded a drop by 0.4%. Last week the dam was at 74.8% compared to last week when it stood at 74.8%. Last year during the same time, the dam was at 66.4%.

The Bloemhof Dam continued to slump down to lower levels this week. Sitting at 86.7%, it has recorded a decline by 1.2% from 87.9% last week. At 12.7% during the preceding year at the same time, the dam had tipped to dangerous lows.

On the strength of weather forecast, which presents a gloomy picture well into the early months of next year, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is reiterating on its call on consumers to intensify efforts to conserve water.

Water occupies a central role in the lives of communities and thus any shortage of this life-giving resource could be disastrous. It is in this context that the department is urging consumers to cut down on their daily use to make a positive contribution in reversing the decrease of the IVRS.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Director Media Liaison at 082 874 2942/012 336 6813 or Hosia Sithole, at 082 723 2442/012 392 1333

For media releases, speeches and news visit the Water & Sanitation portal at: www.dwa.gov.za