



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Integrated Vaal River System on the downturn

19 June 2017

Gauteng dam levels released this week show that the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) is persisting to decline, slumping to unacceptably low levels and putting the system under strain. The IVRS is down 0.2% to 83.3%.

The falling IVRS consists of 14 dams and serving mainly Gauteng, Sasol and Eskom.

The Vaal Dam has this week dropped to 97.6% from 98.1% last week, recording a decline of 0.5%. Last year during the same period the dam was below the neutral 50% at a shrinking level of 39.2%

Hovering below 50% this week is the Katse Dam at 40.7 %, down by 1.2% from a 41.9 last week. During the same period last year Katse was at standing at 58.0%

The Sterkfontein Dam remained steady this week, maintaining last week's level of 91.4 %. Used to replenish the Vaal Dam during unpredictable rainfalls and drought, the Sterkfontein Dam was at a high of 99.9% at the same time last year.

Down by 0.6% this week is the Groodraai Dam at 88.4% from a 89.0% last week. However, this week's levels is up by 6.2% compared to last year's 82.2%

On the upsurge this week, the Bloemhof Dam is sitting at 101.0%, rising by 0.5% from last week's 100.0%. This dam was below satisfactory level last year during the same period having shrunk to 21.9%

As rainfalls are unpredictable during the winter season, the strain on water supply is increasingly becoming difficult.

Taking this into consideration, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is urging consumers across Gauteng to spare a thought for others and use water wisely. Failing to act in a positive manner can lead to the downswing in dam levels reaching dangerously low levels and taps running dry.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Director Media Liaison at 082 874 2942 or Hosia Sithole, at 072 530 8500.

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