



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Consumers called upon to save water as experts predict dry spell

05 September 2018

The major dams which form part the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) are falling into lower levels week-on-week as temperatures gradually become warmer.

The IVRS has slightly gone down from 82.5% last week to 82.0% this week, recording a decline by 0.5%. At the same period last year, the system was at 77.4%. This indicates that this week's levels are at a much healthier state.

The IVRS consists of 14 dams and is critically important for Gauteng, which is the economic heartland of the country and the continent. Eskom and Sasol are two catalyst industries that rely on the system for water supply. Households also depend heavily on the system.

The Vaal Dam has slightly declined this week. Having been at 93.7% last week, the dam is currently hovering at 92.8%, sliding down by 0.9%. Last year during the same time, the system was at 88.6%.

Similarly, the Grootdraai Dam has fallen slightly from 85.4% last week to 84.7% this week, recording a decline of 0.7%. Compared with the same time last year, the dam was at 80.3%. This week's and last year's levels show that the dam is one of those that remain consistently higher and help push the level of the system up.

The Katse Dam has equally moved down, recording a decline by 0.6%. Last week, the dam stood at 54.3% and is now standing at 53.7%. Last year at the same period, the dam was below the 50% mark, hovering at 26.7%.

Remaining unchanged from last week, the Sterkfontein Dam is floating at 95.0% this week. This week's level is not far off from the level at which the dam stood (at 92.4%) last year at the same time.

Recording a slight decline of 0.5% this week, the Bloemhof Dam currently sits at an impressive 99.0%. During the same time last year, the dam was at 96.0%.

The Mohale Dam continues to be a cause for concern. Week-on-week, the dam is falling into dangerously low levels. This week, the dam is standing at 23.6% while last week it was at 24.4% - a fall by 0.8%. Judged against last year's levels which were at 63.9%, this dam remains at an alarming state.

As experts in the water sector predict that the country is headed for a dry spell, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is cautioning consumers to be alert at all times when using water. As much as the IVRS is currently at well above the 50% mark, the prediction of fewer rainfalls during summer should serve to nudge both industry and households to use water sparingly. Keeping the taps from drying up is one of the Department's top priorities, and consumers are urged to work with the Department and municipalities in ensuring that water supply is not interrupted.



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For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Director Media Liaison at 082 874 2942 or Hosia Sithole at 082 723 2442.

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