



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Decline in Lowveld dam levels continues

13 November 2018

The decline in water levels in the Lowveld of the Mpumalanga Province continues despite some rains last week. This is in line with the continued decline on average water levels in the Mpumalanga Province. According to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 12 November 2018, the average dam levels dropped from 70.4% to 69.5% with the water management areas also recording declines in water volumes, with the Olifants catchment dropping from 60.6% to 60.2% and the Inkomati-Usuthu catchment dropping from 72.7% to 71.4%.

Driekoppies Dam dropped from 63.9% to 63.4%, Witklip Dam dropped from 77.5% to 76.2%, Inyaka dam dropped from 65.0% to 63.1%, Da Gama Dam dropped from 67.4% to 63.1%, Kwena Dam decreased from 55.7% to 48.7%, Blyderivierpoort Dam decreased from 52.6% to 50.3%, Longmere Dam decreased from 65.6% to 64.4%, Primkop Dam dropped from 41.7% to 38.7% and the Klipkopjes Dam recorded a slight increase from 52.5% to 53.0%.

The Kwena Dam is now below 50% and this calls for serious water conservation efforts and initiatives to be implemented to ensure that the dam does not run critically low as it one of the most strategic dams in the region.

In other parts of the Mpumalanga Province, only the Loskop Dam recorded a slight increase in the Nkangala District as it moved from 86.8% to 87.0%. In the Gert Sibande District, Vygeboom and Nooitgedacht dams recorded some improvements in water levels, with Vygeboom dam increasing from 94.3% to 94.7% and Nooitgedacht dam increasing from 91.7% to 91.8%.

DWS would like to encourage the public to continue using water wisely and efficiently and strengthen water conservation initiatives as we can see that the rain that we are receiving is not enough to fill our dams and increase the flow of our rivers and streams.

ENDS



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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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