



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Gauteng dam levels on the rise, consumers called to conserve more water

28 March 2018

The recent downpours in Gauteng have left major dams which form part of the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) in a healthier state this week.

The IVRS recorded a considerable 6.3% increase, moving from 77.2% last week to 83.5% this week. The System was at 87.3% last year during the same time.

The IVRS consists of 14 dams and is responsible for the supply of Sasol and Eskom and thus is the heartbeat of the economy of the province.

The Vaal Dam rose to higher levels this week from 83.5 % last week to 94.7% this week, recoding an increase of 11.2%. At the same time last year, the dam was sitting at 104.8%

Similarly on the upsurge, the Grootdraai Dam has seen an increase by 5.5% this week from 96.7% last week to 102.2% this week. Compared with last year levels at the same period, the dam hovered at 99.0%

Equally up this week is the Bloemhof Dam. This dam has increased from 73.5% last week to 78.2% this week. The level of the dam has increased by 4.7% this week while in the preceding year at the same time it was at 103.5%.

Likewise, the Katse Dam climbed to higher levels this week, increasing by 12.1% after having been at 52.3% last week. The Katse Dam is currently at 64.4% while at the same time last year it floated at 52.4%.

The Sterkfontein Dam also recorded a slight increase to 94.9% this week from 94.6% last week. This dam went up by 0.3%. Last year during the same time the Sterkfontein Dam was sitting at 89.5%.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is warning water users in the province not to be complacent given the recent rainfalls that have drenched the province in the last few days. The Department is cautioning the public that the rising dam levels should not be taken as a sign that the province will not be affected by the drought that is currently gripping other provinces.

Amid calls from across all sectors to store water, the Department reiterates that it is important to save water now rather than doing so when the challenge of water scarcity is already playing itself out.

Due to the finite nature of water resources, both business and the public are therefore called upon to limit their consumption to ensure that the province avoids the experience that is being felt in the other areas of the country.

End

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