



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Gauteng dams decline, slightly affecting the IVRS

15 August 2018

The decreases in levels of dams that form part of the Vaal River System (IVRS) have had a corresponding impact on the system, driving its level down week-on-week. The system, which was at 83.9% last week has decreased by 0.4% this week and is currently sitting at 83.5%. During this time last year, the system stood at a firm 79.3%.

The IVRS consists of 14 dams which are the backbone of the commercial capital of Gauteng, supplying uninterrupted water to the province's households and industry, including Eskom and Sasol.

One of the significant dams in the system, the Vaal Dam, has slightly shrunk from where it stood last week. This week the dam is at 95.5% having been at 97.4% last week, recording a decrease of 1.9%. Last year at the same period, the dam stood resiliently at an impressive 91.5%.

Similarly, the Grootdraai Dam has seen a decrease in its level, moving from 88.1% last week to 87.2% this week. Falling by 0.9% this week, the dam hovered at 82.8% last year at the same period.

Standing slightly above the 50% mark at 55.1% this week, the Katse Dam has declined from 55.7% last week. It is down by 0.6% this week. Compared to the same time last year, the Katse Dam floated at an alarming 30.6%.

The Sterkfontein Dam has also contributed to the falling of the system and currently stands at 95.0%. Although negligible, the dam has fallen by 0.1%. At a satisfactory level, last year and last week the dam stood comfortably at 91.8% and 95.1% respectively.

The Bloemhof Dam has seen a change this week, albeit negative. It equally declined from 102.2% last week to 102.0% this week, going down by 0.2%. When compared to the same time last year when the dam was at 99.2%, this week's level is higher by 2.3%.

The Mohale Dam is continuing to show signs of distress despite climbing up to a higher level this week. Moving from 21.3% last week to 24.4% this week, the dam has surged by 3.1%. Judged against the same period last year, the dam was at 64.2%.

In light of the dire water situation having spread to some parts of the Eastern Cape, the Gauteng Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is alerting households and business in the province to up their game in saving water. The Department caution water users not to be lulled into halting their saving efforts by the fact that our systems is well above what is considered a distressing situation.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation



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