



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Gauteng dams increased, water users urged to use less as winter approaches

04 April 2018

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) has edged up to higher levels this week, showing an increase by 4.1% from 83.5% last week to 87.6 this week. Compared to last year during the same time, the System hovered at 86.8%, which is a standing lower by 0.8% to this week's level.

The IVRS, which consists of 14 dams, is the nerve centre of the economy of Gauteng. Sasol and Eskom receive their water supplies from this System.

The Vaal Dam continued to rise this week as it rose up to an impressive 103.5%, increasing by 8.8% from 94.7% last week. Currently the dam is slightly lower when judged against the preceding year during the same time when it was sitting at 104.2%.

Equally sitting at a remarkable level presently, the Grootdraai Dam has increased to 102.8% from 102.1% last week, moving up by 0.7%. Floating at 97.8% last year during the same time, the Grootdraai Dam has been one of the resilient dams remaining well above the 50% neutral mark.

The Bloemhof Dam also made a strong upswing this week as it sits at 90.1%. Growing by a significant 11%, the dam improved from last week's 78.2%. However, the current level is a decline from last year during the same period when the dam was at 101.6%.

The Katse Dam has similarly increased this week. Last week the dam was at 64.4% and now is at 66.5% with an upturn of 2.1%. The dam was slightly above 50% last year during the same at 51.5%.

From 94.9% last week, the Sterkfontein Dam has also recorded an increase to 95.3% this week. The dam has seen an increase by 0.4%. Last year during the same time the Sterkfontein Dam was at 89.7%.

In order to obviate the possibility of water shortages in Gauteng during the winter season, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is calling for current restrictions which are still in place in some areas of the province, including Johannesburg and Tshwane, to be strictly adhered to.

Both the public and business are urged to take specific measures to observe their water demand management as put by their local municipalities. Taking cognisance of the water crises which has put a strain on water supply in other provinces, the Department urges water users to keep in check their use of this depleting resource.

End

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