



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **Gauteng dams record slight decrease, public urged to conserve and reuse water**

03 May 2018

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) has declined slightly this week following its increase week-on-week previously. The system has declined by 0.7% from 90.3% last week to 89.6% this week. Last year during the same period the system was sitting at 86.0%

The system consists of 14 dams and supplies water to households and various economic sectors in Gauteng including Sasol and Eskom.

The Vaal Dam has declined slightly this week, going down from 105.7% last week to 104.6% this week. Compared to last year during the same period, the dam was at an impressive 102.7%

Likewise, the Grootdraai Dam dropped slightly this week from 100.8% last week to 99.9% this week, recording a fall by 0.9%. During the same period last year the dam was hovering at 94.4%.

Also taking a nosedive, the Bloemhof has seen a decrease of 2.5%, falling from 104.3% last week to 101.8% this week. In the preceding year during the same time, the dam stood at 101.6%

The Sterkfontein Dam, which is a reserve dam for the IVRS located in the Free State, increased by 0.2% to 96.1% this week from 95.9% last week. This dam floated at 89.7% a year ago.

The Katse Dam is also on the downturn this week to 67.0% from 67.7% last week. The dam has recorded a decline by 0.7% this week while last year during the same time it stood below the neutral 50% mark at 48.3%.

Having been rising week-on-week, the fall of the system is just but a sign that as we are approaching the dry winter season, the levels in the IVRS may go even further down. Hence, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is continuing to encourage communities and industry to conserve the available water resources.

Of importance, the Department is calling on water users to reuse water as the shortage of the resource is become a reality. At the same time the Department is sensitising everyone to be careful when reusing water as this may pose risks to health and safety. For example, water that has been used is not to be used for drinking purposes and may only be used for watering plants, cleaning and other such activities.

**ENDS**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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