



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

IVRS drops week-on-week, consumers called to keep daily use in check

05 June 2018

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) fell slightly by 0.4% this week; from 88.3% last week to 87.9%. This is the fifth consecutive week that the system has been consistently on the decline. In the preceding year at the same time, the system was at 84.2% which is lower compared to this year's level.

The system consists of fourteen (14) dams that are responsible for Gauteng's water supply to households and industry, including the electricity giant Eskom and Sasol, which is an integrated energy and chemical company.

The major dams of the system have also shown a decline, impacting on the overall levels of the system.

The Vaal Dam has recorded a decline this week, hovering at 102.0%, falling by 0.4% from last week's 102.4%. Judged against last year's levels at the same time when the dam was sitting at 98.9%, this week's levels are marginally higher.

Sloping down to 94.4%, the Grootdraai Dam has dropped from 95.7% last week. The dam has seen a decline by 1.3% this week. When compared with last year's levels at the same period when it was at 90.0%, this week's levels are slightly lower.

At 102.5% this week, the Bloemhof Dam has also moved down from 103.1% last week, recording a decline of 0.6%. This year's levels are not far off from last year's when the dam was floating at 101.9%.

Likewise, the Katse Dam fell from 64.5% last week to 63.5% last week. In the preceding year at the same time, the dam was sitting at a waning 44.6%, raising concerns about the state of the dam.

The Sterkfontein Dam, which has remained largely unchanged for some weeks, has slightly declined this week from 96.2% last week to 96.0%. The dam, which is a reserve located in the Free State, has seen a fall by 0.2% while last year at the same period it was at 90.4%.

The Mohale Dam has not gone any higher than it was during the same period last year when it floated at 64.6%. Currently, the dam is sitting at a dwindling 32.1% which is lower than it was last week at 32.8%.

Despite the fact that the overall system is sitting just above the 100% mark, which is a welcome relief, the system still needs to be used with care as any excessive consumption may drastically reduce it. Factoring in the reality of Gauteng being a summer rainfall area, there is every chance that the level of the system may go lower and faster than anticipated. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is therefore encouraging consumers to keep their daily use in check, mindful of the fact that Gauteng expects rainfalls to start from October or even later in the year.

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