



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

IVRS drops weekly, consumers called to play a role to save water

24 October 2018

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) remains stable this week although it continues to drop to lower levels week-on-week as the Department of Water and Sanitation warns the public to reduce consumption.

Despite experiencing some good rains over the last few weeks, some of the major dams in the IVRS have seen a decline while predictions are that the country may not have nearly enough rains this summer.

The IVRS consists of 14 dams that provide water to industries and households in Gauteng and is one of the province's and the continent's economic catalysts. The system supplies two of Gauteng's economic heavyweights, Eskom and Sasol.

The IVRS has gone down from 77.7% last week to 77.0% this week. When compared with last year at the same period, the system was at 73.5%, indicating an improvement from last year.

The Vaal Dam, which is one of the critical dams that form part of the IVRS, has recorded a marginal decline this week, moving from 86.6% last week to 85.5% this week. During the same period last year the dam was at 82.6%.

Equally dropping to a lesser level this week, the Grootdraai Dam has moved down from 80.2% last week to 79.7% this week. At the same period last year the dam hovered at 74.7%.

The Katse Dam continues to drop, shrinking to levels slightly below the neutral 50% mark and currently stands at 49.1%. Last week the dam was floating at 49.6% while last year at the same period it was at a lowly 30.5%.

Standing firm at 94.6%, the Sterkfontein Dam has recorded an insignificant decline, dropping from 94.7% last week. Judged against last year's level at the same time when it floated at 93.8%, the dam has been resilient up until now.

Although similarly stronger, the Bloemhof Dam has seen a slight decline from last week's level. Currently the dam is sitting at 85.9%, down from 87.6% last week. Compared with the same period last year the dam was at 88.5%.

Floating at dangerously low level, the Mohale Dam has continued to record a decline week-on-week, raising concerns about its state. The dam's decline is worsening as it moved down from last week's 19.6% to 19.1% this week. Last year at the same time the dam was at 44.4%.

As the country faces a prospect of lower than normal rainfalls this summer, the Department of Water and Sanitation in Gauteng is calling on the public to be cautious in their consumption and to use the resource sparingly. Consumers are urged to reuse water and follow the water saving tips provided by their municipalities.



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For more information contact Sputnik Ratau, Director Media Liaison at 082 874 2942 or Hosia Sithole at 082 723 2442.

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