



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

IVRS in good state as major dams continue to fall slightly

29 August 2018

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) continues to drop to lower levels week-on-week but remains at a good state well above the neutral 50% mark. This week the system sits comfortably at 82.5%, showing a mere 0.7% decline from last week's 83.2%. During the same period last year the dam was at an equally good state, hovering at 78.0%

The IVRS consists of 14 dams which are vital for the prosperity of the Gauteng as a powerhouse of the country. The system supplies water households and industry, including Eskom and Sasol.

The Vaal Dam, which is one of the dams in the system, has slightly declined this week. Floating at 94.9% last week, the dam has fallen by 1.2% and is currently at 93.7%. Last year at the same time the dam was at 89.4%.

Despite being in a healthy condition, the Grootdraai Dam has similarly shrunk slightly from 86.2% last week to 85.4% this week, recording a decline by 0.8%. At the same period last year the dam was at a good state at 81.0%.

Compared with the same time last year, the Katse Dam has progressively moved up to recovery having been at a depressing 28.0%. Currently the dam stands at 54.3%, recording a few notches down from 54.8% last week.

The Sterkfontein Dam has fallen by a negligible 0.1% this week. Last week the dam was at 95.1%, moving slightly down to 95.0% this week. Although floating at a higher level this week, the dam was also substantial higher at 92.1% last year at the same period.

The Bloemhof Dam, which had broken into 100%, has fallen slightly this week. Currently the dam is at 99.5% while last week it was at 101.2%, indicating a decrease by 1.7%. When compared with the 96.9% at which it was last year at the same time, the dam is floating at a bit higher level this week.

The Mohale Dam continues to remain in a critical condition. Still dwindling further to unsatisfactory level, the dam has gone down from 24.8% last week to 24.4% this week. If last year's level at 28.0% is anything to go by, there is every possibility that the dam continue to decrease to a dangerously low state.

Noting the that the major dams forming part of the IVSR have fallen to lower levels this week, the Department of Water and Sanitation, which is the custodian of all water resources in the country, is calling on all consumers to exercise caution. It is emphasised that as much as water provision is everyone's right, consumers are being called upon to use this right with the utmost responsibility so as not to infringe on other people's access to the same right.

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