



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Keep using water wisely despite improving dam levels**

17 April 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) would like to urge the public to continue using water wisely and in a conservative manner as we enter the dry winter season. Despite the improving water levels in most of the dams and water management areas in the Mpumalanga Province, it is of utmost importance to conserve the available water and use it wisely as we are faced with unreliable rain patterns as a result of climate change.

According to DWS weekly state of reservoirs report of 16 April 2018, the average water levels in the listed dams in the Mpumalanga Province improved by 0.3%, from 81.7% to 82.0%. Water levels in the water management areas also recorded slight increases, with the Olifants catchment increasing from 74.6% to 75.0% and the Inkomati-Usuthu catchment increasing from 80.5% to 81.4%.

The majority of listed dams in the Ehlanzeni District of the Mpumalanga Province recorded slight increases in water volumes. Driekoppies Dam increased from 60.0% to 63.1%; Klipkopjes Dam increased from 74.8% to 78.4%; Witklip Dam increased from 98.2% to 100.5%; Primkop Dam increased from 98.1% to 99.4%; Kwena Dam increased from 69.4% to 70.7%; Gama Dam increased from 84.7% to 86.4%; and Inyaka Dam increased from 77.8% to 78.6%. The Longmere Dam recorded some decline in water volumes, from 78.1% to 75.5%

Witbank and Middelburg dams in the Nkangala District registered slight improvements, with only the Loskop Dam decreasing from 101.2% to 100.5%. The Witbank Dam increased in water volume from 99.5% to 99.6% and the Middelburg Dam increased from 95.2% to 96.9%.

Dams in the Gert Sibande District recorded mixed results: the Nooitgedacht Dam slightly increasing from 100.7% to 100.8% and the Jericho Dam increasing from 90.9% to 91.0%. The Grootdraai Dam decreased from 102.7% to 101.6% and the Vygeboom Dam decreased from 101.0% to 100.9%. The Heyshope and Westoe dams recorded unchanged results – at 88.2% and 78.8%, respectively.



## **water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

The residents of the Mpumalanga Province are encouraged to continue with their water conservation initiatives and use the available water wisely as winter is a dry season. They must always remember the fact that our country, South Africa, is a water scarce and is one of the driest countries in the world.

**END**

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

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