



MEDIA STATEMENT

Mpumalanga water levels continue dropping

14 February 2018

The water levels in the dams and rivers of the Mpumalanga Province continue dropping. According to the Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS's) weekly state of reservoirs report of 12 February 2018, the average dam levels in the Province dropped by 0.1% (from 76.9% to 76.8%). Water levels in the water management area (WMA) also dropped, with the Olifants catchment dropping from 66.3% to 65.7% and the Inkomati-Usuthu catchment dropping from 74.3% to 74.1%.

Most dams in the Ehlanzeni District recorded declines in water levels. The Driekoppies Dam, which is still below 50%, recorded a slight increase from 44.0% to 44.2%. Kwena Dam decreased from 65.5% to 64.3%, Da Gama Dam decreased from 80.8% to 79.9%, Inyaka Dam decreased from 75.1% to 75.0%, Witklip Dam decreased from 88.4% to 88.1%, Longmere Dam decreased from 69.7% to 62.7% and the Primkop Dam decreased from 73.6% to 70.6%.

In the Nkangala District, Witbank and Middleburg dams recorded decreases in water levels. Witbank Dam decreased from 99.0% to 96.7% and Middelburg Dam decreased from 94.1% to 91.6%. The Loskop Dam recorded a slight increase in water volumes from 97.7% to 98.3%.

Dams in the Gert Sibande District recorded mixed reactions. The water levels in the Jericho and Vygeboom dams remain unchanged, with Jericho Dam unchanged at 86.3% and the Vygeboom Dam unchanged at 100.3%. Grootdraai Dam decreased from 100.8% to 100.6%, Nooitgedacht Dam decreased 94.7% to 94.2% and Westoe Dam decreased from 84.4% to 82.2%. The Heyshope and Morgenstond dams recorded slight increases in water levels, with the Heyshope increasing from 83.8% to 84.0% and the Morgenstond Dam increasing from 68.4% to 69.2%.



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Even though the picture looks better than during the same time last year, it is important that we strengthen our water management initiatives and conserve more of what is available as the situation in the country does not look good. With the water in the dams and the water management areas continuously dropping, it is crucial that all citizens of the province and the country intensify water conservation initiatives and use the available water in a wise and responsible manner. Water supply security is in our hands and we must always remember that our country is a water scarce country and one of the driest countries in the whole world.

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For more information contact: Sputnik Ratau at 082 874 2942

For further enquiries contact: Themba Khoza on 066 301 6962

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