



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

The Vaal Dam is slightly up this week while other dams decline

07 August 2018

The level of the Vaal Dam has slightly shot up this week while that of some major dams forming part of the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) have decreased, affecting the overall level of the system.

The Vaal Dam has moved up by 0.5%, from 96.9% last week to 97.4% this week. Compared to the previous year at the same time, the dam was sitting comfortably at 92.4%.

The IVRS, which consists of 14 dams and is pivotal to Gauteng's supply to households and industry – including Eskom and Sasol – has lost 0.6% having gone down to 83.9% from 84.5% last week. However, this week's level is higher compared with last year's when it was hovering at 79.9%.

The Grootdraai Dam has recorded a decline this week. Currently, the dam is floating at 88.1% while last week it was sitting at 89.0%. The dam has seen a decline by 0.9%. Last year at the same time it was at 83.5%.

Currently at just above the 50% neutral mark, the Katse Dam has slightly declined this week. The dam is now at 55.7%, decreasing from 56.8% last week. The present level is an improvement from last year's trivial 31.8%.

Equally falling this week is the Sterkfontein Dam which was at 95.3% last week. This week the dam is at 95.1%, recording a fall by 0.2%. Judged against last year's level at the same time, the dam has been consistent as it sat at 91.7%.

Locked in a gloomy state, the Mohale Dam is still floating at a concerning level. The dam has recorded a further downturn from last week when it was at 25.4%. This week the dam is at 21.3%. This picture is far removed from when the dam was at a satisfactory state, hovering at 64.2% last year at the same period.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) encourages households and industry in Gauteng to continue adhering to water saving methods, saying that it is these very methods that have seen the province through the dry winter season.

Despite the fact that we are now at the end of winter, we must still stick to using water sparingly because we do not know how the rainfall patterns are going to look after the winter season. Given the erratic water conditions, we must save more. Being in a good position currently does not mean we are not going to experience any challenges going forward.

ENDS

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