



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **Slight increase recorded on average in Mpumalanga dam levels**

15 January 2019

The recent rains in parts of the Mpumalanga Province have resulted in a slight 0.9% average increase in dam levels in the province. According to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 14 January 2019, the average water levels in the listed dams in the province slightly increased from 66.7% to 67.6%. The Olifants water management area also recorded a slight increase from 57.3% to 57.9%, whilst the Inkomati-Usuthu catchment recorded a decrease from 69.4% to 69.3%.

The majority of the listed dams in the Ehlanzeni District recorded some increases in water volumes with only the Klipkopjes Dam recording a decrease from 48.2% to 46.3%. On the positive note, Driekoppies Dam remained unchanged at 63.3%, Longmere Dam increased from 61.3% to 71.6%, Witklip Dam increased from 76.2% to 80.9%, Primkop Dam increased from 35.9% to 40.0%, Kwena Dam increased from 35.8% to 36.3%, Da Gama Dam increased from 66.7% to 69.0%, Blyderivierpoort Dam increased from 59.2% to 68.0% and Inyaka Dam increased from 58.4% to 59.3%.

The fact that Kwena Dam is below 40% is worrisome as the dam is strategic in supplying water to the capital city of Mbombela.

Middelburg Dam recorded a slight decline in water volumes from 91.7% to 91.5% in the Nkangala District. Witbank Dam increased from 88.5% to 88.7% and Loskop Dam increased from 80.5% to 82.7%.

In the Gert Sibande District, the majority of the listed dams recorded a decline in water volumes with only Grootdraai and Westoe dams recording some slight increases. Grootdraai Dam increased from 73.3% to 76.0% and Westoe Dam increased from 52.1% to 52.7%. The Nooitgedacht Dam decreased from 100.8% to 98.3%, Vygeboom Dam decreased from 101.4% to 101.0%, Jericho Dam decreased from 67.3% to 66.9%, Heyshope Dam decreased from 81.0% to 80.4% and Morgenstond Dam decreased from 65.5% to 65.2%.



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The decline in water levels in the listed dams in the Gert Sibande District contributed to the drop in water volumes in the Inkomati-Usuthu catchment.

The Department of Water and Sanitation would like to urge and encourage water users, especially those relying on the Kweni Dam to be more conservative and innovative in their water use and adhere to the restrictions to ensure water security for all. Even though we get some rain, it is still not enough to fill our dams and restore the natural flow of our rivers and other watercourses, therefore the onus rests with all of us to ensure that we do not run out of water as water has no substitute.

**ENDS**

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

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