



MEDIA STATEMENT

Continued drop in the Vaal Dam could have serious impact

23 January 2019

The continued decline of one of the major dams in the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS), the Vaal Dam, could have a serious impact on water supply to businesses and households if water demand and dry weather conditions continue to rise.

The Vaal Dam, showed a slight improvement last week when it went up to 75.2% from 74.0% the week before. Presently the dam is at 74.1%. It recorded 79.4% in the comparative period last year.

The Vaal Dam is the lifeblood of the IVRS and is one of the 14 dams that form the backbone of the IVRS, which contributes immensely to the economy of Gauteng. The economic hub of Gauteng houses the electricity generating giant Eskom and the petro-chemical company Sasol, two of the critical industries that are supplied water by the IVRS.

The dam levels spelled a bleak picture this week as the IVRS as other dams in the system shrunk to lower levels while others remained stagnant.

Dropping this week, the Grootdraai Dam moved down from 76.0% last week to 75.4% this week. In the preceding year, the Grootdraai Dam floated at slightly above 100% at an impressive 100.4%

Both Mohale and Katse Dams continued to be confined below the 50% mark and dipped further into a shrivelling state.

The Mohale Dam is depressingly low this week, after decreasing to new lows. The dam went down from 18.2% last week to 18.1% this week, fuelling fears that it would take months for it to recover from its present state. The current level of the dam is slightly lower than the dam levels of 20.0% in the same week last year.

Despite hovering at an improved level than the Mohale Dam, the Katse Dam is presently at 39.8%, down from last week's 40.8%. The dam is higher compared with the same week last year when it floated at 39.2%

Remaining unchanged from last week, both the Sterkfontein and Bloemhof Dams are at 94.0% and 61.5% respectively. Last year at the same week, the Sterkfontein Dam was at 94.2% while the Bloemhof hovered at 74.0%.

The Department of Water and Sanitation in Gauteng is encouraging water consumers, especially residents to reduce their consumption so that the IVRS remains stable and does not drop to below 50%. The Department is concerned that the heatwave may lead to increase in water demand and is thus urging residents to exercise caution so as to avoid a dire situation.

End





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