



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Integrated Vaal River System slightly shrinks as major dams decline**

27 March 2019

The persisting decline in most of the dams that form part the integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) has yet again impacted negatively on the system this week, deepening fears that Gauteng might experience water shortages in the coming months.

The system has been progressively sliding downwards in recent months, prompting the Department of Water and Sanitation to caution water users to cut back on their usage.

This week the system fell to 67.7%, down from 68.1% last week while during the comparative period last year it stood at 82.1%. If the current levels of the system are anything to go by, the system has been gradually declining since last year.

The Vaal Dam, which is critical for the system, has declined to 69.6% from 70.3% last week. Floating at 92.1% last year during the same week, the dam was at an even much healthier state then.

So important is the Vaal Dam to the economy of Gauteng that it supplies water to petro-chemical giant Sasol and the electricity generator Eskom. Households are also dependent on the dam for their water supply.

Similarly declining this week, the Bloemhof Dam fell from 56.3% last week to 55.8% this week. Last year during the same period, the dam' levels were at 74.6%, conveying a downward trend.

The Katse and Mohale dams equally remain in a concerning state. Despite recording an increase this week, the Mohale Dam is still a concern as it hovers below the neutral 50% mark at 21.6%. The dam slightly moved up from 21.3% last week. In the corresponding week last year it was at a trivial 33.0%

The Katse Dam has seen a minor decline, dropping from 35.8% this week to 35.3% last week while at the same time last year it was stable at 62.8%.

The Sterkfontein also slightly dropped, falling from 93.8% last week to 93.7% this week. Compared with the same week last year when it was at an impressive 94.8%, the dam continues to show resilience.

Meanwhile, the Grootdraai Dam has remained strong from when it stood at 103% last year, carrying on to record 84.1% last year to the current levels which are slightly lower but acceptable at 83.5%.

The Department of Water and Sanitation in Gauteng is urging water consumers to heighten their efforts to save water and to report leakages in order to curtail the tide of water losses. Water remains the lifeblood of both communities and businesses and its use with regard to the future is a responsibility that cannot be avoided.

**End**





## water & sanitation

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

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