



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### **Mpumalanga water levels improve but water users urged to conserve water**

12 February 2019

Water levels in the listed dams and water management areas in the Mpumalanga Province continued to show some improvement as a result of some rainfall recorded over the past week. According to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 11 February 2019, the listed dams recorded an average increase from last week's 68.8% to 69.5%. This is a welcome increase but the water levels are still far below last year's 76.8%. In terms of the water management areas, the Olifants catchment increased from 59.0% to 60.4% which is below the 65.6% recorded at the same time last year whilst the Inkomati-Usuthu catchment increased from 70.6% to 70.9% which is still below the 74.1% recorded last year.

The majority of the listed dams are below last year's levels. In the Ehlanzeni District, only Driekoppies, Longmere and Blyderivierpoort dams have higher water levels as compared to the same time last year. Driekoppies Dam remained unchanged from the 65.1% recorded last week which is much higher than the 44.2% recorded last year, Longmere Dam increased from 61.1% last week to 72.3% which is higher than last year's 61.6% and Blyderivierpoort Dam increased from last week's 75.7% to 76.8% which is higher than the 60.4% recorded at the same time last year. Witklip Dam recorded a weekly increase from 83.6% last week to 84.3%, Kwena Dam increased from 40.6% to 42.4%, Da Gama Dam increased from 70.1% to 70.9%. Inyaka and Klipkopjes dams recorded slight decreases in water volumes over the week, with Inyaka decreasing from 59.4% to 59.3% and Klipkopjes decreasing from 49.5% to 47.2%.

All the listed dams in the Nkangala District are below the water levels recorded last year. Witbank Dam recorded a slight increase from 88.4% to 88.6% which is below last year's 97.6%, Middelburg Dam decreased from 94.8% to 94.3% which is slightly lower than the 94.5% recorded last year, and the Loskop Dam recorded an improvement in water levels from the 84.5% recorded last week to 87.2% but is also lower than the 98.0% recorded at the same time last year.





## water & sanitation

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In the Gert Sibande District, only the Nooitgedacht and Vygeboom dams have water levels higher than last year at the same time. Nooitgedacht Dam dropped from the 98.3% recorded last week to 97.3% this week which is higher than the 94.3% recorded last year and the Vygeboom Dam also dropped from 102.1% last week to 101.1% this week which is higher than last year's 100.3%. The rest of the dams have lower water volumes than last year. Grootdraai Dam recorded a weekly increase from 76.0% to 77.0%, Heyshope Dam increased from 81.1% to 81.2%, Morgenstond Dam increased from 66.8% to 67.5%, Westoe Dam increased from 53.5% to 55.9% and Jericho Dam recorded an improvement from 67.2% to 67.9%.

The Department of Water and Sanitation would like to urge the public use water wisely as our water levels continue to drop year after year. Climate change is upon us as we continue to receive below average rainfall and at the same time face increasing temperatures which lead to the evaporation of the limited available in our water scarce country.

Let us all be water ambassadors and promote responsible water use behavior for water security for the survival of the current and future generations as water is life.

**End**

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

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