



MEDIA STATEMENT

Mpumalanga water levels continue to improve

30 April 2019

The Mpumalanga Province continued to record improvements in water levels in consecutive weeks. According to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 29 April 2019, the average water levels in the Province recorded a 0.1% increase from last week's 74.8% to 74.9%. In terms of the water management areas, the Inkomati-Usuthu catchment recorded a 0.1% increase from 77.5% to 77.6% whilst the Olifants catchment remained unchanged at 63.8%. The consecutive increase in water levels in the Mpumalanga Province is a welcome situation as we head towards the dry winter season.

All the major listed dams in the Ehlanzeni and Nkangala districts recorded slight increases in water volumes. In the Ehlanzeni District, Blyderivierpoort Dam increased from 100.3% to 100.4%, Driekoppies Dam increased from 74.7% to 75.2%, Longemere Dam increased from 59.6% to 66.4%, Klipkopjes Dam increased from 49.5% to 50.1%, Witklip Dam increased from 100.4% to 100.5%, Primkop Dam increased from 22.3% to 25.4%, Kwena Dam increased from 55.6% to 56.3%, Da Gama Dam increased from 75.3% to 75.8% and Inyaka Dam increased from 68.0% to 68.1%.

In the Nkangala District, Witbank Dam increased from 88.4% to 88.5%, Middelburg Dam increased from 95.3% to 95.4% and Loskop Dam increased from 91.8% to 92.0%.

The Gert Sibande District recorded mixed results with the majority of the dams recording declines in water volumes. Only the Heyshope and Westoe dams recorded slight increases, with Heyshope Dam increasing from 88.0% to 88.1% and Westoe Dam increasing from 69.2% to 69.4%. Grootdraai Dam dropped in water volume from 80.5% to 80.1%, Nooitgedacht Dam dropped from 94.4% to 93.7%, Vygeboom Dam dropped from 101.2% to 100.7%, Morgenstond Dam dropped from 65.6% to 65.1% and Jericho Dam dropped from 68.0% to 67.3%.





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In as much as we appreciate and welcome the improvements in water levels, the Department of Water and Sanitation would like to re-emphasize the importance of water conservation and encourage the public to use the available water wisely as we enter the dry winter season.

The Department would also like to encourage the public to protect groundwater resources as groundwater is a major alternative source of water in the midst of climate change. Water is life, so it is crucial that we all play a part in the conservation and protection of water resources for water security in our water scarce country.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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