



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Vaal Dam drops to nearly 50% mark**

21 August 2019

The Vaal Dam has continued to decline this this week, tilting closer to the neutral 50% mark.

Presently the dam is at 62.0%, down from 62.8 last week. Last year at the same week the dam stood at 95.1%. This indicates a sustained drop over a number of months.

The Vaal Dam serves as a muscle behind the economy of the Gauteng as it supplies water to Sasol and Eskom. These two industries are at the centre of the province's economic fortunes.

Other dams which form part of the Integrated Vaal River System such as the Grootdraai Dam, the Sterkfontein Dam and the Bloemhof Dam are hovering at firmer levels compared to the Vaal Dam.

Despite a decrease from 64.9% last week to 63.9% this week, the Grootdraai Dam is slightly higher than the Vaal Dam. Currently, the Grootdraai is floating at 63.9%, slightly down from last week's 64.9%. During the preceding year at the same week, the dam stood at a strong 86.7%

The Sterkfontein Dam is unchanged from last week's 92.2% but higher when compared to the Vaal Dam. At the same period last year the Sterkfontein Dam was at 95.1%

The only dams to hover below the 50% mark, the Katse and the Mohale dams continue to drop even further week-on-week.

The Katse Dam is presently in a critical position as its levels stand poorly at 18.6% and far below the Vaal Dam. This week's levels of the Katse Dam are a far cry from the 54.7% the dam recorded last year at the same time. Last week the dam was at 19.7%

Not much different from the Katse Dam, the Mohale Dam remains in an equally poor state. The dam dropped slightly from 33.2% last week to 33.1% this week. This is not a significant improvement from last year at the same period when the dam recorded 24.9%.

In the face of the Vaal Dam decreasing, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Gauteng urges water users to heighten water conservation efforts so as not to deplete the levels of this critical dam. Water consumers are therefore advised to use water sparingly and with consideration for others.

**End**

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

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