



MEDIA STATEMENT

Water and Sanitation Department in Gauteng calls on water users to reduce water consumption as water levels decline weekly

12 February 2019

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) is moving ever closer towards the 50% mark, as it persists to decline week-on-week, prompting the Department of Water and Sanitation to issue a caution to water consumers to work cooperatively with municipalities to reduce usage.

The main concern for the Department is that the decline in the IVRS is happening when the country is getting nearer to the winter season wherein rainfalls are fewer and far in between. This is especially significant given that Gauteng is a summer rainfall area.

Last week, the IVRS went down as some systems in the country were steady as a result of cooler temperatures.

This week, the IVRS slid again from 68.0% last week to 67.6%. Last year during the same week, the system was at 74.3%. This is indicative that the system has been slowly falling weekly since last year.

The IVRS consists of 14 dams and is responsible for supplying some of Gauteng's powerhouse industries such as Sasol and Eskom which in turn contribute immensely to the economy of the country.

A dam that forms the essence of the IVRS, the Vaal Dam, fell from 72.0% last week to 71.1% this week. During the corresponding week last year the dam hovered at an impressive 81.4%.

The Sterkfontein Dam, which is a reserve dam that is used to replenish other dams when their levels are dangerously low, has also seen a decline this week. It sank from 94.0% last week to 93.9%. And, judged against last year's levels at the same week when the dam was at 94.3%, the present levels show a drop.

Equally dropping to new levels, the Bloemhof Dam edged down this week, recording a decline from 56.7% to 56.1%. Hovering at 72.0% last year at the same period, the current level is lower compared last year's levels.

The Katse Dam, which has not seen an increase in levels for some time, is floating at a depressed level and its state is a cause for concern. Presently, the dam is sitting at 36.6% while last week it was at 38.4%. Last year at the same week the dam was at 44.6%

By contrast to the other dams, the Grootdraai and the Mohale dams have surged up this week. The Grootdraai has moved remarkably from 76.0% last week to 77.0% this week, whereas the Mohale dam increased its levels to 18.4% from 18.0%. At the preceding year week last week, the dams stood at 81.4% and 19.0% respectively.

The Department believes that industries and the public in the province could contribute meaningfully to efforts aimed at drastically reducing consumption. In this regards, the Department also urges water consumers to report leaking pipes and meters to their municipalities.





water & sanitation

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