



MEDIA STATEMENT

Limpopo residents are encouraged to continue saving water

07 August 2019

As we welcome the spring season, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) calls on water users to continue using water sparingly because of the dam levels that are dropping daily.

According to a weekly report released by the Department of Water and Sanitation, the province's average dam levels are at 57.5% this week as against 58,8% a week ago, and showing a sharp decline when compared to last year this time when readings were at 71.5%.

Looking at the summary of Water Management Area (WMA) for Limpopo, it reflects a decline compared to last year this time when water levels were at 74.9% as against the current 66.6%. The Olifants Dam stands at 57.1%, also showing a slight decline compared to last year's 70.1 %, which should alarm Limpopo residents to continue saving water.

The Polokwane Water Supply Systems is at 60.8% showing a slight decline when compared to 62.4% last week. Last year around this period, the water supply system was at 90.1%. The Luvuvhu Water Supply System also has slightly declined, sitting at 91.2% from last week's 92.3%. The Vhembe District area of the province is still in satisfactory state with regard to water storage, with Nandoni Dam currently standing at 94.5% this week which brings relief to communities around that area.

Ebenezer Dam, which supplies the majority of communities around Polokwane is currently at 55.9% this week showing a decline compared to last year this time when it was sitting at 83.9%. Tzaneen Dam, which mostly helps farmers in the Mopani District with irrigation continues to decline, sitting at 12.2% this week compared to 12.8% last week, which is why the Department calls on farmers to always play their role in saving water as it will affect their crops and animals if the dams were to run dry.

Mokolo Dam in Lephalale in the Waterberg District of the province decreased by 4.2%% from 73.8% last week to 69.6% this week. De Hoop Dam in Steelpoort which supplies communities in the Sekhukhune District went down from 84.1% last week to 83.0% this week; a decrease of 1.1%, which should also alarm the people of Sekhukhune and encourage them to save water more.

Although the provincial storage is at a satisfactory percentage, the province still needs to continue to implement water restrictions so that reliable water provision is sustained until the next summer rains. Water is a scarce resource and catalytic towards economic development and it must therefore be conserved at all times.





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The Department's Regional Head in Limpopo, Mrs Lucy Kobe, is appealing to the people of the province to continue saving water. "With climate change affecting the way in which it used to rain in this province, we encourage people to continue saving water", said Mrs Kobe.

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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation in Limpopo

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