



MEDIA STATEMENT

Majority of Lowveld listed dams record declines in water levels.

24 April 2024

The majority of listed dams in the Ehlanzeni District and Lowveld recorded declines in water levels but most are still above 100% with a few above 95% and only Ohrigstad Dam below 70%.

The latest Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 22 April 2024 shows that only Inyaka Dam remained unchanged at 100.4% with the rest dropping in water volumes.

Listed dams still above 100% that recorded declines include Blyderivierpoort from 100.6% to 100.4%, Buffelskloof from 100.3% to 100.2%, Driekoppies from 100.9% to 100.3%, Longmere from 101.1% to 100.2%, Witklip from 100.6% to 100.4%, Primkop from 101.3% to 100.6%, and Kwena from 100.5% to 100.4%.

Dropping but still above 95%, Klipkopjes dropped from 99.8% to 99.6% and Da Gama dropped from 100.3% to 99.8%. Ohrigstad Dam which has the lowest levels in the Lowveld dropped from 69.8% to 69.1%.

In terms of provincial water levels, the Mpumalanga Province recorded unchanged average dam levels at 98.2% which is slightly lower than the 98.6% recorded during the same period last year. The water levels in the Water Management Areas (WMAs) are also lower than last year, with the Olifants WMA dropping from 87.5% to 87.2% which is lower than last year's 89.6% and Inkomati-Usuthu WMA remaining unchanged at 98.4% which is also lower than the 99.5% recorded during the same period last year.

In the districts, Gert Sibande is the only district that recorded some improvements, increasing from 96.9% to 97.1% while Ehlanzeni and Nkangala recorded declines, dropping from 100.0% to 99.7% and 98.9% to 98.6%, respectively.

The Department of Water and Sanitation calls on the public to be more conservative and use the available water wisely and sparingly taking into consideration of the dry winter season and the fact that South Africa is a dry and water scarce country where every drop counts as water has no substitute.

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