



INTERNET ARTICLE

Ntshingwayo Dam recovering as drought conditions remains

07 November 2017

Formerly known as Chelmsford Dam, the Ntshingwayo Dam is the third largest dam in KwaZulu-Natal and is located on the Ngagane River in Newcastle. It was established in 1961 and it was raised in 1982. The dam was built to supply water to the surrounding towns within the Newcastle area and to also supply irrigation to farmers.

“The dam provides water to Newcastle, Dannhauser and Dundee and also supplements Utrecht” said an enthusiastic Lucky Zondo, a KZN DWS Senior Control Officer at Ntshingwayo Dam.

With a population of over 363 236, Amajuba District Municipality supplies purified bulk water from the Ngagane Water Purification Plant which it obtains from raw water extraction from the Ntshingwayo Dam.

“Dams are constructed for a specific purpose such as water supply, flood control, irrigation, navigation, sedimentation control and hydropower. A dam is the cornerstone in the development and management of water resources development of a river basin” Zondo further explained.

As direct consequences of drought in KwaZulu-Natal, the water levels in the Ngagane River have considerably improved. The level of the Ntshingwayo Dam currently stands at 75% as of 06 November 2017. At around this time last year, the dam stood at 40% capacity.

Mbali Mahaye