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Title: IVRS unchanged, but use water sparingly

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THE INTEGRATED Vaal River System (IVRS) is unchanged this week, remaining at last week's level of 65% as most of the dams in the system take a knock.

The IVRS, which recorded 67.7% during the corresponding period last year, consists of 14 dams and is critical to the economic powerhouse of Gauteng. Key industries in the province heavily rely on the system for its water supply.

Giant industries such as Eskom and Sasol are supplied water from the system.

Forming part of the IVRS, the Vaal Dam recorded a slight decrease this week as it moved slightly down

IVRS unchanged, but use water sparingly

from 56.7% last week to 57.1%. During the same period last year the dam was sitting at 72.2%, which indicates that it has been on the decline over some time.

Similarly declining this week, the Grootdraai Dam fell from 102.9% last week to 101.5% this week. The present levels are significantly higher compared to the same time last year when it floated at 75.6%.

The Bloemhof Dam also saw shrunken levels this week, edging down from 78.6% last week to 77.3%. Hovering at 57.1% last year during the same period, this week's

levels of the dam are higher.

The Sterkfontein Dam increased this week, surging up from 91.9% last week to 92%.

The current levels are not far off from last year's at the same time when the dam was at 93.9%.

Both Katse and Mohale dams are this week floating below the 50% mark. They have been hovering at stressed levels for some time.

Katse Dam is now hovering at 28.4%, up from last week's 27.3%. Both levels are lower compared with the 37.9% it recorded at the same time last year.

Mohale Dam is the worst affected in the system. It stands at 13% after falling from 13.1% last week. In the corresponding period last year, the dam stood at 18%.

Despite the levels of the IVRS remaining unchanged from last week, the Department of Water and Sanitation in Gauteng puts a premium on the co-operation of households and businesses to do their part in saving water resources. Thus, the department calls on water users to press ahead with saving water and guarding against its excessive use in their respective areas. | SPUTNIK RATAU and HOSIA SITHOLE
Department of Water & Sanitation