



## Residents urged to intensify water saving efforts in Mopani

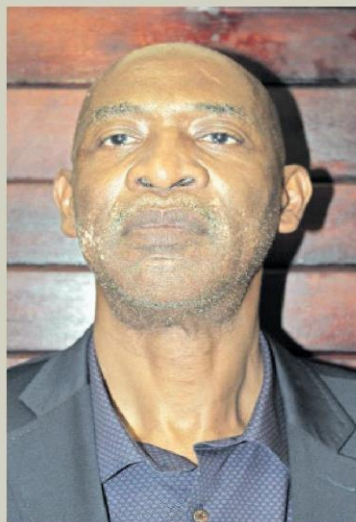
Residents are urged to intensify their water saving efforts to enable the current water levels to sustain them until the next summer rains.

In the past two weeks the water situation in the province has stabilised with dam levels sliding marginally from 67,5% to 66,8% while dams in the Mopani district is declining rapidly.

“Now it is up to the water users in the province to ensure that water is used wisely and sparingly to sustain them during the dry winter season,” said the spokesperson for the department of water and sanitation, Sputnik Ratau.

According to the latest report on dam levels by the department, the province has stored 1 017,4 cubic metres of water in its reservoirs for use during the dry winter season. The water will also be used to minimise the spread of COVID-19 pandemic following a government call to all citizens to wash their hands frequently with water and soap.

The report indicates that the province’s water situation is two percent better than it was in the same period last year. Seven of the province’s dams are running at full capacity at an average 100% and slightly above.



However, the report paints gloomy picture of the water situation in Mopani district where the dams are running below 30%. The situation is particularly dire in Giyani where Middle Letaba Dam recorded a mere 3% level.

Tzaneen Dam that supplies the citrus industry is on a gradual slide as it recorded 19,5% from last

week’s 19,9%. There are fears that unless drastic measures are soon taken to save the situation, this may spell disaster for the fruit industry. Mopani forms the economic heartbeat of the province’s economy with its citrus products that are exported annually to overseas countries. The Ebenezer Dam that feeds the Tzaneen Dam is a mere 16,5% full in comparison to the 69,2% last year.

Elsewhere, Vondo and Nandoni dams in Vhembe kept the hopes high for the availability of water in winter with the resource reaching 100,6% and 72% each. Nandoni supplies Thohoyandou, the economic hub of Venda, and parts of Malamulela and Xikundu villages.

The multi-billion De Hoop Dam along the copperbelt of Steelpoort and Sekhukhune maintained its stability at 95,3% while Loskop Dam in the Olifants is bursting its seams at 100,3%. Hans Merensky on the far east of the province is also full to capacity at 100,8%, and so is Rust De Winter to the south.

Houtrivier and Glen Alpine in Mogalakwena occupy the middle of the table with the dams recording 73,6% and 89,3% respectively. Tondeldoos and Vlugkraal experienced a slight drop at 99,7% and 92,5% each.