



MEDIA STATEMENT

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Be water-wise as Mpumalanga water levels continue to decline

The Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 30 November 2020 shows that the Mpumalanga Province continues to experience declines in water volumes in listed dams and water management areas of the province. The report shows that average water levels in the listed dams dropped from last week's 63.5% to 63.1%, which equates to 1601.9 cubic meters of water in storage out of the required 2538.6 cubic meters.

This week's report also shows that water levels in the catchment areas are also continuing to drop, with the Olifants water management area slightly dropping from 58.7% to 58.6% and the Inkomati-Usuthu dropping from 58.3% to 57.6%.

In the midst of this continuous decline in water levels, there were some pockets of improvements in the Ehlanzeni and Nkangala districts. In the Ehlanzeni District, Klipkopjes Dam increased from 10.1% to 12.2% and Da Gama Dam increased from 48.5% to 48.8% and in the Nkangala District, Witbank Dam reached the 90% mark from last week's 88.7% and Loskop Dam increased from 91.0% to 91.3%. Westoe Dam in the Gert Sibande District remained unchanged at 29.9%.

The rest of the listed dams continued to drop. In the Ehlanzeni District, Blyderivierpoort Dam dropped from 81.3% to 80.2%, Buffelskloof from 46.8% to 44.1%, Driekoppies from 67.9% to 67.1%, Longmere from 50.2% to 48.4%, Witklip from 59.4% to 59.0%, Primkop from 67.6% to 63.3%, Kwena from 35.2% to 33.2%, Inyaka from 49.0% to 48.9% and Ohrigstad Dam from 7.7% to 7.4%.

In the Gert Sibande District, Grootdraai Dam dropped from 82.9% to 82.5%, Nooitgedacht from 79.2% to 78.1%, Vygeboom from 75.8% to 74.8%, Jericho





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from 58.7% to 57.6%, Morgenstond Dam from 40.2% to 39.8% and the Heyshope Dam dropped from 66.2% to 65.8%.

In the Nkangala District, Middelburg Dam dropped from 78.3% to 77.6% and the lowly Rhenosterkop Dam dropped from 0.6% to 0.5%.

As the high temperatures continue to cause high evaporation rates and the continuous drop in water levels, DWS urges the public to be more water wise and use the available water in a conservative manner for continued supply security as climate change is a reality and it has a negative impact on reliable water availability. Water security is in our hands.

Safety around water is critical to save lives, especially as we head towards the festive season. As we celebrate the festive season, let us also take care and be responsible around water ecosystems. Water is life but can be a source of misery if we are irresponsible. Let us then be responsible and enjoy water.

End

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