



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Vaal Dam levels decline after three weeks of increase

02 December 2020

The levels of the Vaal Dam have this week seen a decline after recording an upsurge for three consecutive weeks that progressively placed it in a reasonably stable position.

Prior to the increases, the Vaal Dam was facing a dire situation as its levels continued to take a nosedive for a protracted period.

This week, the dam fell from last week's 36.1% to 35.9%. During the same period last year, it stood below the 50% mark but was higher at 40.6%.

Similarly, the Grootdraai Dam has slightly dropped this week as it recorded a decline from 82.9% last week to 82.5% this week. The current levels of the dam are substantially higher when compared to the 53.9% at which it stood during the same week in the preceding year.

Contrary to the Vaal and Grootdraai dams, the Sterkfontein Dam, which is located just outside the Free State town of Harrismith, jumped from 94.9% last week to 95.0% this week. A reserve dam that is used to replenish other dams when they face dwindling levels, the Sterkfontein Dam was firm during the same period last year when it hovered at 91.3%.

The Bloemfontein Dam also shot up this week, increasing from 81.2% last week to 82.0% this week. The levels of the dam were lesser during the same week last year as it stood 68.7%.

In Lesotho, Africa's second largest double-curvature arch dam, the Katse, is presently floating at 25.6%. This is up from the 24.4% last week and the lowly 18.5% it recorded in the same week last year.

Also in Lesotho, the Mphahlele Dam is in a depressed state as it floats in a shrunken state of 4.5%. However, this is up from equally trivial levels of last week's 3.9%. Floating at 22.6% during the same time last year, the dam has been worsening week-on-week.

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS), which consists of 14 dams, continued to rise this week. Presently the system (IVRS) is 57.4% full, up from last week's 57.4%. This rise in the levels bodes well for its stability as it has previously been declining weekly.

The Department of Water and Sanitation remains cautious about the position of the Vaal Dam and the entire system (IVRS). This will help to avoid any dire situation and to ensure that water supply is not interrupted. The Department believes that working together to save water will preserve the limited resource for the long-term.

Furthermore, the Department urges water users - businesses and households – to continuously inspect all the internal plumbing, including taps, geysers and toilets for any signs of leaks. Leakages are responsible for a huge amount of water losses and so their detection and prompt fixing could save a lot of water.

The Department also emphasises that consumers should continue to use water wisely and sparingly as this is a key part of conserving water. It further encourages water users to use the resource only for bare necessities and using grey water for other non-human purposes.





## water & sanitation

Department:  
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**Ends**

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