



MEDIA STATEMENT

Be more conservative as water levels continue to drop in Mpumalanga

06 October 2021

The Department of Water and Sanitation encourages the public to be more conservative in their water use as water levels in the listed dams and water management areas continue to drop.

According to the latest Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 04 October 2021, the average water levels in the listed dams in the Mpumalanga Province dropped from 77.1% to 76.9%. Water levels in the Water Management Areas (WMA) recorded mixed results, with the Olifants WMA dropping from 70.4% to 69.8% and the Inkomati-Usuthu WMA slightly increasing from 84.6% to 85.0% mainly due to that most of the dams in the Gert Sibande District in the Usuthu catchment recorded some improvements in water levels.

In the Ehlanzeni District and the Lowveld, Primkop, Da Gama and Ohrigstad dams remained unchanged at 73.6%, 90.0% and 51.5% respectively. The rest of the listed dams in the district continued to drop in water levels, with Blyderivierspoort Dam dropping from 86.1% to 84.6%, Buffelskloof from 75.9% to 73.2%, Driekoppies from 95.5% to 95.1%, Longmere from 78.1% to 66.4%, Klipkopjes from 92.8% to 89.4%, Witklip from 88.9% to 87.7%, Kwena from 88.0% to 86.0% and Inyaka from 79.0% to 78.4%.

The majority of the listed dams in the Gert Sibande District recorded improvements in water levels except for the Grootdraai Dam which recorded a drop from 74.5% to 73.5%. The rest of the dams in the district which recorded some improvements in water levels include Nooitgedacht increasing from 93.6% to 94.7%, Vygeboom from 88.1% to 93.2%, Jericho from 72.6% to 76.1%, Westoe from 49.5% to 49.6%, Morgenstond from 80.7% to 81.5% and Heyshope from 83.6% to 84.2%.

All the listed dams in the Nkangala District continued to decline. Witbank Dam dropped from 87.7% to 87.5%, Middelburg Dam from 79.7% to 79.1%, Loskop Dam from 86.6% to 85.3% and the critically low Rhenosterkop / Mkhombo Dam dropped from 7.0% to 6.9%.

DWS further encourages members of the public to play their part in ensuring that we do not unnecessarily lose precious water by fixing and reporting leaks and pipe bursts as well as protect the water resources for reliable water supply for the current and future generations. The





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Department also encourage the public to continue using wisely and sparingly in light of the increasing temperatures which lead to more water losses through increased evaporation.

End

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