



MEDIA STATEMENT

IVRS dams slightly increase this week

07 October 2021

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) remains in a healthy state this week. The IVRS consists of 14 dams, including the Vaal Dam which is key for water supply of industries such as the energy and chemical company Sasol and the electricity generating giant Eskom.

This week, the IVRS rose from 81.8% last week to 82.3% this week. During the comparative period last year, it was at 56.7%

The Vaal Dam slightly declined this week, it lowered from 83.6% last week to still above the 80% at 83.1% this week. During the same time last year, the dam was recorded well below the 50% mark as it stood at 32.0%. This is a good sign especially in that it implies that abstraction for Rand Water continues to be assured at a comfortable level. This further implies that there is continued security of raw water for the entity, leading to security of supply to the Gauteng Province, its three Metros, District Municipalities, industries and mines; thus the economic hub of the country will continue to operate optimally.

Similarly, the Grootdraai Dam has recorded a decline this week. It fell from 74.5% last week to 73.5% this week. During the same period last year, the dam was even higher at 76.6%.

For this week, the Sterkfontein Dam in the Free State recorded a rise to 100.8%, while last week it stood at 100.6%. Last year at the same time it was at 94.2%. This indicates that this dam, which is a reserve dam for the IVRS, has stood firm for several months.

The Bloemhof Dam has seen a slight decline this week. It declined from 101.8% last week to 100.8%, however, it remains in a healthy state. Compared to the present levels, the dam was lower but still strong at 89.2% in the preceding year during the same time.

The levels of the Lesotho dams – Mohale and Katse - are still a cause for concern to the Department of Water and Sanitation.

The Katse Dam has seen an increase to 65.5% from 63.1% last week. The dam bounced back from a dire state of 23.3% a year ago during the same week.

The Mohale Dam is experiencing better levels this week. The dam rose from 29.4% last week to 32.2% presently.

In an effort to curtail water usage during this critical time, the Department of Water and Sanitation in Gauteng calls on consumers to limit their usage to household necessities and to refrain from watering gardens and other non-human consumption uses.

Industries and the mining sector are also encouraged to play their part using the latest technologies that assist with less water use in their areas of operation. Each drop saved is a drop that will play an essential part in the long-term water availability.

End





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