



MEDIA STATEMENT

VRS remains strong despite fluctuations over weeks

21 July 2021

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) remains in an impressive state, with its level hovering well above the neutral 50% mark despite falling this week compared to a week before.

The system has recorded a marginal decline from 87.4% last week to 86.7% this week, going down by 0.7%.

The system, is the biggest in the country and is the pillars that prop up the economy of Gauteng the economic hub of the country, is also responsible for supplying water to Eskom and Sasol.

Last year during the same period, the system was floating at 63.6%.

The fluctuations in the system have been influenced by variations over the weeks in some of its major dams.

For instance, the Vaal Dam has decreased from 93.7% last week to 92.8% this week – recording a fall by 0.9%. Compared with its situation at the same time last year, the dam is still healthier as then it was sitting at 43.7%.

The Grootdraai Dam recorded a slight decrease, moving to 84.7% this week from 85.6% last week. The dam has declined by 0.9%. Last year during the same period, the Grootdraai Dam still hovered comfortably at 82.5%.

This week the Katse Dam, the catchment of the Maluti Mountains in Lesotho, is sitting at 69.9%, while last week it was at 71.3%. The dam has decreased by 1.4%, this is still a lot better than the wretched level of the last year at the same period, when the Katse Dam was at an insignificant 31.7%.

The Sterkfontein Dam, which provided a lifeline to Gauteng when the levels of the Vaal Dam took a serious knock at the height of an ugly drought, is currently at 99.6%, the increase level from last week as it was recorded at 99.3%. Judged against last year's levels at the same period, the dam stood at 93.9%. This reserve dam for IVRS must always be above the 90% of capacity.

The Mohale Dam, also in the mountain Kingdom of Lesotho, has failed to notch up to decent levels, consistently dropping. This week was not different as the dam went down from 33.8% last week to 33.0% this week. This decline though not good for the IVRS, still at the levels that are higher than last years at the same time when dam was sitting at 8.6%.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) wishes to thank both the public and industries benefiting from the Integrated Vaal River System for using water sparingly – reiterating that if it were not for their cooperation, the situation would have been different. However, the Department is also urging consumers not to let the guard down as the winter season implies no rains are expected in the catchment areas that supply the IVRS.





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