



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### **IVRS firm levels provide stability for the dry-winter season months**

14 April 2021

The healthy levels of the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) continue to reinforce the certainty that the system's worst days were effectively behind it despite recording a decrease this week.

This week the system is floating at 93.1% as opposed to the corresponding period last year when it was at 66.1%. Last week, it stood at 92.8%.

The system is the biggest in the country and boasts 14 dams that straddle Gauteng, Mpumalanga, the Free State the Northern Cape provinces. South Africa's foremost industries like Eskom and Sasol receive their water supply from the system.

A part of the dams within the system, the Vaal Dam, which hovered just above the 50% mark during the same week last year at 52.7%, has seen a turnaround in levels. This week the dam is at an impressive 104.5% but down from last week's 105.2%.

Another dam in the system, the Groodraai Dam, has dropped from last week's levels. It now sits at 98.8%, down from 99.2% last week. In the comparative period last year, it stood at 93.2%, which is lower compared to the present levels of the dam.

Both the Sterkfontein and the Bloemhof dams recorded increases in levels this week.

The Sterkfontein Dam slightly tracked upwards to 98.4% from 98.3% last week. During the same week last year, it was notches lower at 93.1%. This shows that the dam has held a consistently stable position.

Similarly, the he Bloemfoh Dam saw a minor increase from 109.0% last week to 109.3% whereas last year during the preceding year it was at 91.3%. This is a notable increase over the weeks as it continued to rise and breach the 100% mark.

The Mohale Dam in Lesotho is still struggling to notch up significant levels but remain in a safe position now compared to the 11.9% it was during the same week last year. This week, the dam hovers at 40.5% after a negligible increase from 40.4% last week.

The Katse Dam, which is also in Lesotho, has seen a drop this week, as it went down from 79.0% last week to from 78.8% this week. However, it has improved from a trivial 33.7% at the same period last year.

As per the Department of Water and Sanitation's (DWS) weekly dam levels report, the system dams are in a positive trajectory and this bodes well as the country move closer to the dry-winter season. Presently, the dams float as follows:

- Woodstock - 98.2%
- Zaaihoek - 82.1%
- Jericho - 85.5%
- Westoe – 96.4%
- Vygeboom – 100.9%
- Morgenstond – 86.1%





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- Heyshope – 87.2%
- Nooitgedacht – 98.9%

Over and above appeals for conserving water, the Department also urges the public to avoid sewerage spillages because exposure to them poses serious health risks to communities. The public is also warned against connecting a storm water drainage system to the sewer network. The sewer network is designed to only transport waste water and not volumes of storm water.

**End**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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