



MEDIA STATEMENT

Kwena Dam full to capacity as it breaches 100% mark

07 April 2021

The Kwena Dam which is important for water supply for water users downstream, including the City of Mbombela is finally full and breached the 100% mark after starting the year on a downward mode and below 30%.

According to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 05 April 2021, the Kwena Dam continued to rise and recorded another increase from last week's 98.7% to 100.2%. This is much better and almost twice the water levels recorded at the same period last year when the water volume in the dam stood at 53.5%.

The Kwena Dam is this week's shining star in the Lowveld in the Ehlanzeni District as it is one of the few dams that recorded improvements as the majority of the listed dams in the District and the entire Mpumalanga Province recorded declines in water volumes. The other listed dams that recorded some improvements in the Lowveld include Inyaka Dam which increased from 87.0% to 87.4% and Ohrigstad Dam recording an increase from 81.5% to 82.4%. Buffelskloof and Da Gama dams remained unchanged at 100.5% and 100.3% respectively.

The majority of listed dams in the Lowveld, as is the situation in the Mpumalanga Province recorded declines in water volumes. Blyderivierpoort Dam decreased in water volumes from 100.7% to 100.6%, Driekoppies from 100.9% to 100.5%, Longmere from 101.8% to 101.1%, Klipkopjes from 101.4% to 100.8%, Witklip from 100.4% to 100.3%, and Primkop from 102.2% to 101.9%.

In terms of the provincial outlook, the DWS weekly report shows that the average water levels in the listed dams in the Mpumalanga Province slightly dropped from 88.9% to 88.8% and this is much better than the same period last year when the water levels stood at 74.8%.

In the water management areas (WMA), the Olifants slightly decreased from 80.7% to 80.6% while the Inkomati-Usuthu remained unchanged at 93.2%.

As we approach the dry winter season with water levels starting to drop in the Mpumalanga Province and much of the country, the Department of Water and Sanitation urges water users





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and the public at large to be more conservative in their water use and use the available water in a wiser and sparing manner to ensure the security of supply throughout the dry season until the next rainy season.

End

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