



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Mpumalanga dam levels drop, but still above 90%**

**05 December 2023**

The latest Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 04 December 2023 shows that average dam levels in the Mpumalanga Province returned to the decline mode after recording a slight improvement last week.

The DWS weekly report shows that the average dam levels in the Mpumalanga Province dropped from last week's 91.2% to 90.6% which is still fine above the 90% mark but lower than the 92.8% recorded during the same period last year.

In terms of the Water Management Areas (WMA), the Olifants dropped from 84.2% to 83.5% and is higher than the 82.5% recorded last year. The Inkomati-Usuthu WMA dropped from 91.5% to 91.1% which is lower than the 94.7% recorded at the same time last year.

In terms of the districts, Ehlanzeni dropped from 91.4% to 90.7% which remains higher than the 88.8% recorded last year, Gert Sibande dropped from 87.8% to 87.4% and is lower than the 98.3% recorded last year, and Nkangala also dropped from 96.8% to 95.8% making it higher than the 87.6% recorded last year.

Most of the listed dams in Ehlanzeni District and the Lowveld recorded declines in water levels with the exception of Longmere, Klipkoppies and Inyaka dams which recorded some improvements, increasing from 86.8% to 98.9%, 99.0% to 91.9% and 95.5% to 95.8% respectively.

On the decline mode, Blyderivierpoort Dam dropped from 86.2% to 84.5%, Buffelskloof from 86.0% to 85.5%, Driekoppies from 97.0% to 96.3%, Witklip from 99.8% to 99.5%, Primkop from 100.0% to 97.2%, Kwena from 82.9% to 82.2%, Da Gama from 94.6% to 92.8% and Ohrigstad from 52.8% to 51.5%.

Vygeboom is the only listed dam that recorded some improvement in the Gert Sibande District, increasing from 100.5% to 100.6% and Jericho remained unchanged at 77.6%.

The rest of the listed dams that recorded drops in water levels include Grootdraai dropping from 81.3% to 80.4%, Nooitgedacht from 83.4% to 82.8%, Westoe from 39.4% to 38.4%, Morgenstond from 95.6% to 95.4% and Heyshope from 97.5% to 97.4%.

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In the Nkangala District, Witbank Dam remained unchanged at 97.0% while the rest recorded declines in water levels. Middelburg Dam dropped from 91.3% to 90.0%, Loskop Dam from 97.5% to 96.5%, and Rhenosterkop / Mkhombo Dam dropped from 96.7% to 95.5%.

In light of the drop in water levels and the fact that the average dam levels are lower than the same period last year, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) encourages the public to be responsible water users and use the available water in a wise, sparing and conservative manner. DWS also reminds the public that South Africa is a water scarce country where every drop counts as water has no substitute, therefore it is everybody's responsibility to ensure water security and reliable water supply for the current and future generations.

**ENDS**

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

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