



MEDIA STATEMENT

Kwena Dam water levels drop below 90%

24 October 2023

Water levels at the Kwena Dam have dropped below the 90% after prolonged months and weeks above the 90 and 100 percent marks. The latest Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 23 October 2023 shows that water levels in the Kwena Dam dropped from 90.2% to 86.8%, but this the water volume is still much better than the 83.8% recorded during the same period last year.

Elsewhere in the Lowveld, the majority of the other listed dams also dropped in water levels with the exception of the Klipkopjes and Vygeboom dams which recorded increased from 96.7% to 97.2% and 100.4% to 100.7% respectively.

The other listed dams that recorded drops in water levels include, Blyderivierpoort from 89.5% to 88.8%, Buffelskloof from 85.9% to 82.8%, Driekoppies from 97.5% to 96.8%, Longmere from 95.0% to 89.7%, Witklip from 97.9% to 97.6%, Primkop from 100.4% to 100.0%, Da Gama from 92.3% to 92.8% and Inyaka from 97.1% to 97.0% and Nooitgedacht from 81.9% to 80.8%.

The latest DWS weekly report also shows that the Mpumalanga Province recorded the average water levels in the listed dams dropped from 91.9% to 91.3% which is still better than the 88.6% recorded at the same time last year. In the Water Management Areas (WMAs), the Olifants WMA dropped from 85.2% to 84.8% which is better than the 78.5% recorded last year and the Inkomati-Usuthu WMA also dropped from 92.8% to 92.1% which is less than the 93.2% recorded last year.

In terms of the districts, all the districts in the Mpumalanga Province recorded declines in water volumes, with Ehlanzeni dropping from 94.1% to 92.8%, Gert Sibande from 88.3% to 87.8% and Nkangala from 95.7% to 95.6%.

The Department of Water and Sanitation encourages the public to be more conservative in their water use and continue using the available water wisely and sparingly despite water levels still looking better than last year. The Department also reminds the public that water conservation is key to water security as water has no substitute and South Africa is a water scarce country where every drop counts.

END

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