



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Grootdraai Dam drops below 80% after two weeks of improvements**

13 December 2023

The Grootdraai Dam in the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) in Standerton in the Mpumalanga Province recorded a decline in water levels and regressed back below 80% after two consecutive weeks of improvements.

According to the latest Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) weekly state of reservoirs report of 11 December 2023, the Grootdraai Dam recorded a 0.8% drop which took it below the 80% mark from 80.4% to 79.6%.

The report also shows that the other listed dams in the Gert Sibande District recorded mixed results with just more recording declines and the rest recording some improvements. The dams that followed the Grootdraai Dam in recording declines in water levels include Nootgedacht decreasing from 82.8% to 82.5%, Westoe from 38.4% to 37.6% and Morgenstond from 95.4% to 95.1%.

The listed dams that recorded some improvements include Vygeboom Dam slightly increasing from 100.6% to 100.7%, Jericho from 77.6% to 78.9% and Heyshope from 97.4% to 99.2%.

In terms of water levels per district in the Mpumalanga Province, Gert Sibande is the only district that recorded an improvement in water levels, increasing from 87.4% to 87.8%. The other remaining two districts, Ehlanzeni and Nkangala recorded declines in water levels, dropping from 90.7% to 90.4% and 95.8% to 94.8% respectively.

The DWS weekly report shows that the average dam levels in the Mpumalanga Province dropped from 90.6% to 90.4% and the water management areas recorded mixed results, with the Olifants WMA dropping from 83.5% to 82.8% and the Inkomati-Usuthu WMA recording a slight improvement from 91.1% to 91.6%.

The Department of Water and Sanitation encourages the public to continue using water wisely and sparingly because water security depends on responsible and conservative use of the available water as South Africa is a water scarce country, and water has no substitute.

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

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Water and Sanitation  
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