



MEDIA STATEMENT

Northern Cape Show Significant Improvement in Surface Water Storage

05 June 2024

In the current reporting period, only the Northern Cape has shown a significant improvement in surface water storage by an increase of (+6.2%) according to the Department of Water and Sanitation's Status of Water Reservoirs report.

The Northern Cape, which has a Full Supply Capacity (FSC) of 146.32million m³ is at 78.6%, compared to last week's 72.4%. Last year the Full Supply Capacity of the Northern Cape was at 84.3%. The Vander Kloof Dam which borders between the Free State and Northern Cape provinces is almost 100% full at 99.74. The Vaal River system is just over 81% with the Orange River system at 88.7% full.

The Spitskop Dam which is in the Harts River is currently at 62.3%, the Vaalharts weir, 77.1% having increased from last weeks' 56.7%.

The gauging station at Marksdrift indicates that the water level is at a height of 0.611 metres and at the Katlani gauging station, 0.975 metres.

The Boegoeberg Dam in the Orange Rivers System which has a planned maintenance scheduled to commence from 16 to 26 June 2024, is at a water height of 9.830 metres or 105.8% full. The scheduled maintenance will require emptying Boegoeberg Dam to facilitate refurbishment work on the mechanical gates' slings and sluices. Currently four (4) sluice gates have been opened. This will result in an addition of water to our June schedule release of 81.833 m³/s with a slight increase in our river system.

We urge all farming communities along the river system to closely monitor your water pumps throughout this period. No fishing or swimming should be allowed under these circumstances. Please share this information with water users and communities residing along the riverbanks.

The gauging station in Upington indicates the water level at 0.545 metres, Neusberg at 4.380 metres, at Blouputs 0.411 metres and at Violsdrift, 0.526 metres.

Take note that the water storage dams in the Northern Cape are mostly balancing dams, unlike storage dams where the primary purpose is long term storage of water. Balancing dams are designed to act as a multi-purpose facility. Commonly, it would serve as a distribution point from where water is diverted into pipelines, canals or



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power generating turbines or to serve as a pumping station. Water is usually fed into the dam from one or more outside sources in such a way that a balance is struck between the water entering at one end and being distributed at the other.

The Department of Water and Sanitation urges residents to use water sparingly, protect our water and sanitation infrastructure and stop vandalism.

END

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

For more information, contact Wisane Mavasa Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation on 082 874 2942 or Amogelang Moholoeng on 082 653 1682.

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