



MEDIA STATEMENT

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Vaal Dam Holds Steady Above 100% Capacity, Signalling Sustained Inflows

The Vaal Dam, a critical water supply source for Gauteng and surrounding provinces, has consistently recorded exceptionally high-water levels in recent months, exceeding 100% of its full capacity.

The latest weekly State of Reservoirs bulletin, released on 08 July 2025 by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), indicates that the Vaal Dam is currently at 107.3% of its full capacity. This reflects a marginal decrease from last week's level of 107.4%, showing relatively stable water levels with only slight variation.

As one of South Africa's largest dams, the Vaal Dam plays a vital role in sustaining the country's economic heartland. It serves as the primary water source for the region, supporting key sectors such as manufacturing, mining, and agriculture. In addition to meeting industrial demands, the dam supplies water to over 12 million residents across Gauteng and neighbouring provinces, including Mpumalanga and the Free State, making it a critical pillar of water security for the region.

In addition, the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) plays a pivotal role in sustaining the Vaal Dam's water supply by helping to regulate its levels and maintain optimal storage capacity. This system is essential to ensuring long-term water security for the region. As of the latest report, the IVRS is at a robust level of 101.7%, unchanged from the previous reading, reflecting continued stability in the system's performance. Reservoirs within the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) continue to maintain elevated levels. The Grootdraai Dam has seen a slight decline, dropping from 100.2% to 99.9%. Sterkfontein Dam remains steady at 99.6%, unchanged from the previous week. Meanwhile, Bloemhof Dam has risen marginally, reaching 106.8% compared to last week's 106.0%, reflecting a continued trend of strong inflows across the system.

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On the other hand, the Katse Dam in Lesotho, which forms part of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, has experienced a slight decline in water levels, dropping to 94.3% from 95.1% recorded the previous week. In contrast, the Mohale Dam has shown a marginal increase, rising to 102.1% from the previous level of 101.9%, indicating stable performance within the cross-border water supply system.

The Vaal Dam remains a cornerstone of Gauteng's water security, playing a critical role in sustaining the region's economy and industrial activity. Its current full capacity offers much needed reassurance to both communities and businesses, contributing to social and economic stability. Moreover, these high water levels are a testament to the Department of Water and Sanitation's effective and sustainable water resource management practices.

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