



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **DWS urges stronger water conservation despite rising dam levels**

**18 March 2026**

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) calls for intensified water conservation efforts, despite further improvements recorded at most listed dams in the Lowveld. With the dry winter season approaching in Mpumalanga and across much of the country, the Department emphasizes that responsible water use remains essential.

The latest State of Reservoirs report, released on 16 March 2026, shows that most dams in the Lowveld and Ehlanzeni District recorded increases, with Da Gama Dam remaining unchanged at 100.8%. Blyderivierpoort rose from 101.7% to 102.7%, Buffelskloof from 100.7% to 101.0%, Driekoppies from 100.7% to 101.0%, Longmere from 101.1% to 101.6%, Klipkopjes from 100.0% to 101.0%, Witklip from 100.8% to 101.1%, Primkop from 101.9% to 103.0%, Inyaka from 100.7% to 101.1%, and Ohrigstad from 100.1% to 100.3%. Kwena Dam recorded a slight decline from 101.9% to 101.3%.

Average dam levels in Mpumalanga remained stable at 99.9%. Water Management Areas also showed improvements, with the Limpopo–Olifants WMA increasing from 100.4% to 101.8%, and the Inkomati–Usuthu WMA rising from 99.5% to 99.8%. At district level, Ehlanzeni and Nkangala recorded slight increases, while Gert Sibande dropped marginally from 99.0% to 98.8%.

In recognition of National Water Month and ahead of World Water Day on 22 March, DWS reminds the public that South Africa remains a water-scarce country where every drop counts and water has no substitute. Communities are urged to use water sparingly, protect resources from pollution and degradation, and take proactive steps to prevent losses.

Residents are encouraged to fix household leaks, report burst pipes to the relevant authorities, and safeguard infrastructure against vandalism. Collective action is vital to prevent the unnecessary loss of precious water and to secure this resource for future generations.

**END**

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

**SOUTH AFRICA IS A WATER-SCARCE COUNTRY**





## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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**For media releases, speeches, and news, visit the Water & Sanitation portal at: [www.dws.gov.za](http://www.dws.gov.za)**

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