



MEDIA STATEMENT

Gert Sibande dam levels continue downward trend as DWS calls for urgent water conservation

10 June 2026

Water levels in most dams across the Gert Sibande District continue to decrease, raising concerns about the sustained downward trend in water storage and reinforcing the need for responsible water use. According to the latest Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) weekly State of Reservoirs report released this week, the majority of dams in the district recorded decreases in water levels compared to the previous week.

While most dams experienced declines, Morgenstond Dam recorded a marginal increase from 99.6% to 99.8%, and Vygeboom Dam remained unchanged at 100.5%. In light of the continued drops across the district, the Department is urging residents, businesses and all water users to use water sparingly and adopt water-saving practices to help safeguard available water resources.

The listed dams which recorded declines in water levels include Grootdraai Dam from 99.9% to 99.6%, Nooitgedacht Dam from 100.3% to 100.1%, Jericho Dam from 98.0% to 97.2%, Westoe Dam from 75.7% to 74.4%, and Heyshope Dam from 101.2% to 101.1%.

The report also shows that average water levels also dropped in the Mpumalanga Province and the Water Management Areas (WMA). The average dam levels in the province dropped from 99.9% to 99.7%. In the water management areas, the Limpopo-Olifants WMA recorded a drop from 101.5% to 101.3% and the Inkomati-Usuthu WMA dropped from 99.5% to 99.3%.

In terms of water levels per district, Ehlanzeni which is part of the Inkomati WMA slightly dropped from 100.6% to 100.5%, Gert Sibande which is part of the Usuthu WMA dropped from 99.1% to 98.9%, and Nkangala which is part of the Olifants WMA remained unchanged at 100.5%.

The Department of Water and Sanitation reminds all water users that South Africa is a water-scarce country, and that long-term water security depends on the collective commitment to using water responsibly and efficiently. Every litre saved today helps to protect scarce water resources and secure water availability for future generations.

The Department therefore urges residents, businesses and institutions to play their part by using water sparingly, promptly repairing leaks on their properties, and reporting burst pipes and water losses on municipal bulk infrastructure to the relevant water services authorities. Through

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responsible water use and active water conservation efforts, communities can help safeguard the sustainability of vital water resources.

END

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