



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **DWS pleased with the rise in levels of the Vaal Dam**

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The increase in the levels of the Vaal Dam has dispelled fears of water shortages and the call to release water from dams such as the Sterkfontein and Grootdraai to augment the Vaal Dam.

Rising for the second consecutive week, the Vaal Dam provides water to the economic engine of the country, the Gauteng Province, which houses some of the foremost industries. These include the electricity-generation giant Eskom and the petro-chemical company Sasol.

Whereas last week the Vaal Dam hovered at 30.2%, this week the levels of the dam jumped up to 35.7%. This is an indication that the dam is on an upward trend.

Spokesperson at the Department of Water and Sanitation, Mr Sputnik Rata, said the rise in the levels of the Vaal Dam has placed it in a reasonably stable position, saying that future rainfalls would make it surpass even the levels of last year during the same time when it stood at 43.7%.

He said: "The Vaal Dam is slowly being replenished as result of recent downpours and this is indicative that the heavy showers are steadily replenishing the dam after a protracted period of decline."

He said the increase provides a welcoming respite given the strategic significance of the Vaal Dam, which supplies water to the populous and economic heartbeat of the country.

However, Rata said the dam was currently stable but added that the Department was monitoring its behaviour, reiterating that the Department was on hand to act swiftly should there be a need for any action.

"Other dams in the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) that have seen an increase are the Sterkfontein and the Grootdraai Dams. Presently the former dam sits at 94.9% while the latter is floating at 83.5% this week," said Rata.

He added that the IVRS also recorded an increase from 54.9% last week to 56.8% this week.

Mr Rata appealed to water consumers that for the system to remain stable, there was a need for both businesses and households to use water sparingly and wisely to keep it firm and stable.

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