



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Gauteng DWS's warns water consumers against panic over water shortages**

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The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in Gauteng has advised water consumers not to panic over water shortages and the prospects of imposing restrictions as the levels of the Vaal Dam continue fall.

This week, the Vaal Dam edged deeper into a critical position after it declined to even lower levels this week.

Presently, the dam sits at 33.6 while during the same week last year it was hovering at 55.2%. By all accounts, this indicates a protracted period of decline over the months. Last week the dam stood at 34.8%.

DWS's Gauteng Provincial Head, Sibusiso Mthembu, said the Department wishes to reiterate that imposing of water restrictions was not on the cards as a result of the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) being sufficiently stable to sustain the deteriorating Vaal Dam.

The IVRS, which consist of 14 dams, is now hovering at 57.6% this week.

One of the dams within the IVRS, the Sterkfontein Dam in the Free State, was used to replenish the deteriorating Vaal Dam in 2017 when Gauteng was hit by a devastating drought.

Mthembu said: "Gauteng water consumers are therefore called upon to use water as prudently as possible and not to panic as this might lead to excessive use of water in anticipation of restrictions being imposed."

He urged water users continue to use water wisely and sparingly.

"The system (IVRS) remains fairly stable and the Vaal Dam will be supported by it. However, this does not mean that water users should use water excessively as doing so could put strain on the system," he said.

Water user are thus called upon to strictly follow water saving tips that are provided by their local municipality.

**Hosia Sithole**