



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Lesotho Highlands Water Project shut down for inspection and maintenance well underway**

**09 October 2019**

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) in conjunction with the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority have successfully shutdown the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), water transfer and delivery tunnel and associated systems.

The two-month shutdown (01 October to 30 November 2019) is aimed at allowing the two entities to effectively perform inspection and maintenance work that will ensure that the conveyance system continues to operate optimally. Consequently, there will be no transfer of water into the Integrated Vaal River System in this period.

The last shut down for maintenance was conducted during the same period in 2012.

The panel of experts that will be working on the inspection and maintenance are expected to be on site by the end of this week or at the latest the week beginning Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

According to the weekly Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) dam levels report, the Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) is at a good 74, 8% of capacity. This system consists of fourteen (14) dams with catchments in the provinces of Mpumalanga, Free State, Northern Cape and North West delivering 73% of the capacity of the IVRS. The Lesotho Highlands Water Project delivers 27% of the IVRS' capacity.

Some of the major dams within the IVRS include the Vaal which is at 53, 0%, Sterkfontein which is at 91, 7%, Bloemhof at 86, 9%, and Vygeboom which is at 92, 7%, to name but a few out of the fourteen.

The DWS is confident that with all water users being responsible citizens in terms of water consumption and use, the IVRS will be able to provide sufficient water for all till the rainy season or end of the closure of the LHWP tunnel and system.

The Department would like to advise all those who will be affected by this activity that water provision will be not be adversely affected during this period.

The Department will closely monitor the use and flow of water in the affected rivers during the shutdown period.

**END**

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