



MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

TO: All Media/ Journalist/ Editors

DATE: 19 October 2016

SUBJECT: COMMUNITIES REQUESTED TO USE WATER SPARINGLY AS DAM LEVELS IN MOPANI DWINDLES DRASTICALLY

The Mopani District Municipality would like to renew its call on community members to utilise water sparingly as dam levels in the district continues to drop drastically due to the shortages of rain. Out of the nine main dams supplying water to communities in the district, 8 of them have dropped below 50%. Two of these dams (Thapane and Merensky) have been declared empty while Nsami Dam has reached 8%. Effectively, extraction of water from the Nsami Dam has since been stopped and the areas relying on it are now supplied from the Middle Letaba Dam which is also reaching worrying levels. Community members should also take note of the difficulty of relying on ground water (boreholes) as it is now proving difficult for boreholes in most of our area due to the depletion of the ground water table. Below are dam levels in the Mopani District Municipality as of Monday 17 October 2016:

NAME OF DAM	PERCENTAGE OF THE DAM
1. Thapane Dam	- (EMPTY)
2. Merensky	- (Empty)
3. Nsami Dam	8% (stopped pumping)
4. Tzaneen	17.10
5. Modjadji	19.5%
6. Middle Letaba	19.6%
7. Klaserie	27.10%

8. Tours	30.7%
9. Ebenhezer	62.2%
10. Vergelegen	65%
11. Thabina Dam	70%
12. Dap Naude	72%
13. Makgoebaskloof	100%

Working together with the Department of Water and Sanitation, the Mopani District Municipality will enforce the implementation of drought operating rules at all dams including water restrictions for both domestic and irrigation use. Dams to be affected by water restrictions are Middle Letaba, Nsami, Modjadji and Tzaneen Dams. Below is the schedule of water restrictions for both domestic and irrigation use imposed on the affected dams.

DAM	RESTRICTION FOR DOMESTIC	RESTRICTION FOR IRRIGATION
Middle Letaba	20%	80%
Nsami	50%	80%
Tzaneen	20%	70%
Thabina	45%	-

Due to these restrictions, the Mopani District Municipality is also implementing water supply partitioning in the affected communities. Accordingly, the Mopani District Municipality would like to mobilise all sectors of the community to join hands in the battle of conserving the little available water.

END

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ISSUED BY THE MOPANI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY'S COMMUNICATIONS UNIT