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DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

NO. 5010 **28 June 2024**

LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL OPERATIONS: LIMITING THE USE OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION, URBAN, INDUSTRIAL AND MINING PURPOSES FROM THE POLOKWANE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM(WSS), GROOT LETABA RIVER SYSTEM, MIDDLE LETABA, NSAMI, MUTSHEDZI, NZHELELE, NWANEDI AND LUPHEPHE SYSTEMS/DAMS

I, Dr.Shwan Phillips, in my capacity as the Director General of the Department of Water and sanitation, on reasonable grounds believe that a water shortage exists in the catchment areas covering the Polokwane Water Supply System (WSS), Groot Letaba River System, Middle Letaba, Nsami, Mutshedzi; Nzhelele, Nwanedi and Luphephe Systems/Dams due to insufficient rains and over allocation on the water resources. It is therefore necessary to limit the taking of water from the systems/dams by imposing restrictions. The restrictions are applicable to all water abstractions from surface and/or groundwater resources, and any part of the primary catchments within which the specified Dams/systems fall.

The Minister of Water and sanitation may in terms of item 6 (1) of Schedule 3 to the Act limit the use of water in the area concerned if the Minister on reasonable grounds believes that a water shortage exists within the area concerned. This power has been delegated to me in terms of section 63 (1) (b) of the Act.

Therefore, in my capacity as the Director General of the Department of Water and sanitation, hereby under delegated authority in terms of item 6 (1) of Schedule 3 to the Act, limit the taking of water from the from the Polokwane Water Supply System (WSS), Groot Letaba River System, Middle Letaba, Nsami, Mutshedzi, Nzhelele, Nwanedi and Luphephe Systems/Dams and any other source of abstraction within the catchment areas of the systems/dams, by all users.

The restrictions for individual dams are as given in Table 1 to Table 3 below:

Table 1: Restrictions for individual dams of the Polokwane water supply system

Number	Dam/Source	Restriction (%)
1	Seshego	10
2	Mashashane	20
3	Hautrivier	22
4	Chuniespoort	29
5	Local Boreholes	28
6	Other Boreholes	40

Table 2: Restrictions dams in the Groot Letaba River System

Number	Dam/Source	River Catchment	Restriction (%)		Volume Supplied in Mm³/a
		Groot Letaba and its tributaries	*Domestic/Industrial*	*Irrigation*	
1	Ebenezer	Groot Letaba	-	27	12,99 irrigation
2	Tzaneen	Groot Letaba	-	27%	105,5 irrigation

Table 3: Restrictions for other dams in Limpopo Provincial Operation area

Number	Dam/Source	River catchment	Restriction (%)		Volume Supplied in Mm³/a
			Domestic/Industrial	*Irrigation*	
2	Middle Letaba	Middle Letaba	21	100	9,23 Domestic and 9.13 Irrigation
3	Nsami	Klein Letaba	5	100	5.70 Domestic and 2.52 Irrigation
8	Mutshedzi	Nzhelele	35	-	3.62 Domestic
9	Nzhelele	Nzhelele	20	40	0,66 Domestic and 24.48 Irrigation
10	Nwanedi/Luphephe	Nwanedi	20	45	0.12 Domestic and 5,32 Irrigation

The limitations apply from the date of this notice and will be automatically lifted and/or intensified as and when the situation improves or worsens or after the next annual operating analysis agreement at the stakeholder's operating forum (SOF).

In exercising the powers, I have given preference to the maintenance of the Reserve, treated all water users on a basis that is fair and reasonable, considered the actual extent of the water shortage, the likely effects of the shortage on the water users, the strategic importance of any water use and any water rationing or water use limitations by a water services institution having jurisdiction in the area concerned under the Water Services Act 108 of 1997.

Placing limitation on the taking of water use as set out in this notice is an administrative action affecting the rights of the public as contemplated in section 4 of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000 (PAJA). After I have taken into consideration all relevant factors, including those referred in section 4 (4) (b), I have decided that it is reasonable and justifiable in the circumstances to depart from the requirements referred to in section 4 (1) (a) to (e), (2) and (3) and instituted this limitation without allowing the water users affected and other role players to comment on the matter before I institute the limitation.

This notice overrides any other previous authorization on water restrictions issued by the Department relating to this area.

DR SEAN PHILLIPS

DIRECTOR-GENERAL : DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION
DATE: 08/03/24

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