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Akkerkloof Dam reaches full capacity in major milestone for Knysna's water security

Knysna Municipality is pleased to announce that Akkerkloof Dam has reached 100% of its storage capacity, marking a significant milestone in the municipality's ongoing efforts to strengthen water security across Greater Knysna.

Acting Municipal Manager Dr Richard Martin welcomed the improvement, describing it as an important milestone in the municipality's journey towards a more resilient and reliable water supply.

"This represents a remarkable turnaround from December 2025, when our area faced the reality of having less than ten days of available water supply remaining. The situation required urgent interventions, intensified water restrictions and coordinated support from provincial and national government through the Joint Operations Centre and the Section 154 support process," he said.

"Reaching full capacity at Akkerkloof Dam is certainly cause for optimism and a moment for our community to recognise the progress we have made together," Martin continued. "The water crisis we faced towards the end of 2025 required decisive action, collaboration and a sustained commitment to improving our infrastructure and managing our resources. I wish to thank the Provincial and National Government departments, the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency, Knysna Infrastructure Group, other local stakeholders and, importantly, our municipal staff for their contributions, commitment and continued efforts in strengthening Knysna's water security. This achievement reflects the value of collaboration and a shared commitment to addressing our challenges."

Martin cautioned, however, that a full dam should not be mistaken for an end to the municipality's water challenges. The potential impact of El Niño conditions, which could bring hotter and drier weather, makes continued vigilance and responsible water consumption essential.

"While we welcome this recovery, we cannot afford to become complacent. Water security is not simply about how full our dam is today, but about how responsibly we manage our resources for tomorrow. Level 2 water restrictions remain in place, and we appeal to every resident, business and visitor to continue making water conservation part of their daily lifestyle."

Residents and visitors are encouraged to maintain simple but effective water-saving habits, including fixing leaking taps and pipes, avoiding unnecessary running water, limiting excessive irrigation and being mindful of household consumption.

"We welcome visitors to Greater Knysna and hope they enjoy everything our beautiful area has to offer. However, water conservation is a shared responsibility. Whether you live here or are visiting, we ask everyone to respect the Level 2 water restrictions and make responsible water use part of your daily routine. Our dam may be full, but protecting this resource requires all of us to play our part. Every drop still counts," Martin concluded.

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