



COGHSTA

**Department of Cooperative Governance,
Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs
NORTHERN CAPE**

MEDIA STATEMENT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA/NEWS EDITORS

DATE: 07 APRIL 2025

MEC VASS CAUTIONS THE COMMUNITIES IN LOW-LYING AREAS OF THE VAAL DAM OF POSSIBLE RIVERBANK OVERTOPPING FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE FIFTH SLUICE GATE OF THE VAAL DAM.

MEC Bentley Vass responsible for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) in the Northern Cape, cautions the communities in low-lying areas of the riverbanks in the Northern Cape, of possible overtopping following the opening of the fifth sluice gate of the Vaal Dam, on Sunday, 06 April 2025, by the Department of Water and Sanitation.

Due to the increased water releases by the five sluice gates, there might be a possible overflow at the riverbanks downstream, and this will affect infrastructure built in lower-lying areas within the 100-year floodline or 100 metres.

MEC Vass discourages people from conducting rituals at the rivers and activities like baptisms, swimming and fishing, and crossing the rivers by foot or with motor vehicles on submerged bridges.

MEC Vass said “We have engaged all five District Disaster Management Centres across the Province to submit situational reports to the Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC), so that should the need arise for immediate intervention and mobilisation of resources, we are ready at the PDMC to provide such support.”

The Department of COGHSTA, through the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, is on high alert for immediate response.

The Department of Water and Sanitation is continuously monitoring the water levels in the Vaal River System.

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ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS (COGHSTA).