



water & forestry

Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Media Release

8 April 2009

Hartbeespoort dam remediation efforts will affect access to the dam

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAf) has announced that by the end of April 2009 certain remediation activities will be implemented that will affect access and use of parts of the Hartbeespoort Dam. Algae has been a continuous problem in the Magalies River stretch of the dam and plans are being put in place to remove it.

A work station, the second in the Magalies River, will include a combination of 4 boom sections and will be placed upstream from the road bridge in the Hartbeespoort Dam. The purpose of these boom sections is to assist with the biomass removal by concentrating the algae into a pump station. At this point in time it appears as though the hyacinth is under control but the boom system will also concentrate any floating hyacinth and debris. The area will be marked with the orange buoys used by the Harties metsi a me programme and sign boards have already been erected on the Bridge. The remediation area should therefore be treated as a no wake or dead slow zone by the boating public with speeds of no more than 10 km an hour on that section of the dam.

The results of this action are limited access to and from the dam and the Magalies River. It is expected that certain smells may be detected from time to time but all attempts will be made to keep this to a minimum. It is estimated that the construction and work in progress will be for approximately 6-8 months but may be longer.

Mr Petrus Venter, programme leader and co-ordinator of the Harties metsi a me integrated biological remediation programme on behalf of DWAf, says the Magalies River is the second highest priority of 5 similar stations. The concentrated algae originates from the dam and is moved by the wind. He says that if the concentration of algae is removed at this point there should be a significant improvement that will also result in further visible changes on the dam, especially the western stretch of the Magalies River. He further adds that there is a possibility that the same initiative could be launched at the Leeuwspruit soon.

For further information kindly contact the Harties metsi a me offices at telephone 012 207-9911.

END

Departement van Waterwese en Bosbou • Muhasho wa zwa Madi na Vhusimamadaka • uMnyango wezaManzi namaHlathi • Ndzawulo ya ta Mati na Swihlahla
Lefapha la Ditaba tsa Metsi le Meru • Kgoro ya Merero ya Meetse le Dithokgwa • Lefapha la Merero ya Metsi le Dikgwa • LiTiko leTemanti nemaHlatsi
ISebe lezaManzi naMahlathi • UmNyango weeNdaba zaManzi namaHlathi