The Bloembosdam, initially known as the Oppermansdams, was built on the Lower Vaal River in 1976 and is situated approximately 2 km upstream of Bloembos gebo.

As early as the beginning of the century, investigations were made into a possible dam site at the Kroukenlooggouwe site, which is now Bloembos Dam. Foundations investigations were continued in 1948 and re-opened in 1963. The site at Kroukenlooggouwe was abandoned at this time and two sites were investigated at Oppermansdans before deciding on the one, the foundation characteristics where the Bloembos Dam is now situated.

The foundation rock underlying the dam site consists of dolerite silt on the left bank which is intrusive in Kaoedam, where the Dwyka formation is reached and is covered by a layer of alluvial soil. The Dwyka silt on the right bank is weathered and the alluvial deposits are between 7.5 m and 15 m deep.

The Vaal River is 0.210 km wide and the river flows through the summer rainy area and the precipitation decreases from east to west across the catchment. The average annual flood of the river is 440 m3/s and represents 8% of the total runoff in South Africa.

**Description**

The Bloembos Dam is a composite dam comprising earth embankments to either side of a central concrete spillway section. Due to the flat topography of the area, as exceptionally long embankments, the dam was to be constructed in order to provide for sufficient storage. The earth embankment consists of a concrete slab on the upstream side and on the downstream side by crushed stone taken from mine dumps that are adjacent to the river.

The base of the dam consists of a concrete slab with the rock in front of the base left as natural rock. The rock is supported by sand and gravel and the river continues to flow over the dam.

Dams in the region are constructed because the 20 km deep and the slope of the river is 2°. The water is excavated to a depth of 20 km and the apron has to be made larger than originally planned. 4 million m³ of earth was moved during the construction of the dam.

Opgaarding in the Bloembos will be in the Department of Water Affairs to utilise water from the Vaal River as a whole to best advantage. The dam will be designed to utilise to the water supply potential of the Vaal Dam where the water demand is the highest and lessen the dependency of the Lower Vaal River area on the water resources of the Upper Vaal River Catchment.

The dependable water yield from the Bloembos Dam is estimated at 207 million m³ per annum and will be able to meet the water needs of the Lower Vaal River for 90% of the time. It will not be possible to extend the existing irrigation areas in the region.
Bloemhofdam is een nieuw project om voldoende water op te slaan voor de landontginning en de oogst. De dam is onderdeel van de Veilige Waterbronnen Projecten en onderworpen aan een verplichting om een veilige en duurzame waterlevering te garanderen. De dam is gelegen aan de rivier de Vaal en heeft een oppervlakte van 727 km². De huidige capacity van de dam is 7270 miljoen m³ en het volume is 7270 miljoen m³. De dam is ontworpen en gebouwd door het Departement voor Waterleiding en het Departement voor Water en Onderwijs. De dam is gevestigd in de provincie Transvaal en is onderdeel van het Vaalwaterstelsel. De dam is onlangs verbeterd en uitgebreid om een betere waterlevering te garanderen. De dam is een belangrijke bron van water voor de landontginning en de oogst en speelt een belangrijke rol in de waterbeheerzaak. De dam is een van de grootste en belangrijkste waterlichamen in Zuid-Afrika en is onderdeel van het Veilige Waterbronnen Projecten. De dam is onderdeel van het Vaalwaterstelsel en is een van de grootste waterlichamen in Zuid-Afrika.