

# Province's dams not yet reflecting greater rainfalls

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DESPITE higher measurements of rainfall compared with last year, dams in KwaZulu-Natal have so far recorded a drop in water levels.

This is according to Umgeni Water, which said yesterday that a more complete and accurate assessment of the impact of recent rains could only be undertaken in the next couple of months.

Umgeni Water corporate stakeholder manager, Shami Harichunder, said the reason for the drop in dam levels was

a change in weather variables.

"Because of higher temperatures there has been an increase in evaporation and because of the increase in demand over the festive period more water is being used," Harichunder said.

He said Umgeni Water expected an increase in demand for water over the festive period. However, he said the state-owned enterprise would be able to meet the requirements.

Midmar Dam yesterday, for example, stood at 74 percent full compared with 98 percent this time last year.

## Dam levels

The levels of other KZN dams are:

Site	21-12-10	21-12-09
Nagle Dam	83%	99%
Albert Falls	79%	99.5%
Inanda Dam	91%	101%
Hazelmere	77%	101%

Nungwane	57%	102%
Umzinto	97% (at 17-12-10)	100%
EJ Smith	39% (at 17-12-10)	100%
Ixopo Dam	56%	114%
Mearns Weir	118%	99.6%

Source: Umgeni Water

Other dams recorded similar drops, with the exception of Mearns Weir near Mooi River.

"The South Coast (Umzinto and EJ Smith) dam levels have increased from 79 percent to 97

percent, and 35 percent to 39 percent respectively since the beginning of December 2010. Nungwane Dam level (also on the South Coast) has increased to 57 percent from 47 percent

since the beginning of December 2010. Hazelmere Dam level (on the North Coast) has gone up from 67 percent to 77 percent since the beginning of December 2010," said Harichunder.

He cautioned residents against being complacent about water conservation as a result of the high rainfall.

"Current water resources within the Umgeni Water area of supply are insufficient to meet future water demands ... If the dams are not filled this current rainy season, then next year could be of concern."

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