

Ugu urges Umzinto, Shayamoya, Esperanza, Amalhongwa, Amandawe, Ifafa Mission, Kwa-Cele, Malangeni, Kelso and Pennington to save water

Umgeni Water predicts long term drought

Research conducted by Umgeni Water on historical data on rainfall trends over the past 25 years, reveal a possible sustained drought for our area.

South coast water works sites looked at were Umzinto, Mthwalume and Craigieburn.

Data revealed to date this year has been the leanest with 226mm out of the normal annual average rainfall of 1025mm having been received.

Another point highlighted by Ugu District Municipality's acting senior communications manager, Lindani Mzotho is if poor rainfall persists then this year could be the beginning or first year of another three to four year low rainfall period.

According to historical data, periods of dry years correspond to the years or periods that water restrictions had to be implemented to manage the Umzinto systems limited local dam resources. These years were 1992 to 1994 and 2002 to 2005.

Currently Ugu District Municipality and Umgeni Water can only supply 6MI per day a shortfall of about 2.5MI due to pumping constraints.

"Augmentation from both the Craigieburn and Mthwalume systems would have had the capacity in the past to satisfy this shortfall. Constraints and challenges with these augmentation options related to the stability of the associated infrastructure (pump stations and pipelines), together with higher demands

from new or additional supply areas that have been linked to these systems. This has reduced the capacity of these transfer systems to provide relief for the Umzinto system," said Mzotho.

Because of this construction work has begun on the emergency link between Ellingham Reservoir and the Umzinto Works with a completion target of December 15.

In the interim Ugu urges Umzinto, Shayamoya, Esperanza, Amalhongwa, Amandawe, Ifafa Mission, Kwa-Cele, Malangeni, Kelso and Pennington residents to save water as any failure by anyone to adhere to the restrictions will affect the normal supply.

They also appeal to the community to report vandalism on the Ugu pipe bridges that supply water to Sezela, Bazely and Ifafa as the act of sabotage has made efforts to provide relief very difficult.

"Consumers must harvest rain water were possible and ensure that any losses on their own internal plumbing is also fixed as every drop counts," said Mzotho.

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