

Flood alert as continuous rainfall fills dams

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DAM levels in KwaZulu-Natal and other parts of the country are rising steadily after heavy rains.

Although heavy rain was to be expected during December and January, rainfall figures during the past few days had been very high.

About 48mm of rain fell between Port Edward and the Tugela Mouth yesterday. Inland areas such as Ladysmith received 62mm.

According to Umgeni Water figures recorded yesterday, the Mearns, Henley and Nungwane dams in KZN are all more than 100 percent full.

The Inanda dam is almost 93 percent full, while the Hazelmere Dam is at about 88 percent of capacity.

Meanwhile, the water levels of the four largest dams in the Orange River catchment are rising, the Department of Water Affairs said. The Vaal Dam was 103 percent full and three

KZN DAM LEVELS				
Dams	Capacity (Million m³)	Percentage	Outflow (m³/s)	Rainfall (mm)
1. Albert Falls	290.1	79.50%	3.960	3.9
2. Inanda	251.6	92.59%	.550	6.4
3. Mearns	5.11	123.39%	38.300	3.5
4. Midmar	235.4	75.70%	.813	1.5
5. Nagle	24.6	82.36%	.000	7.1
6. Hazelmere	17.9	87.30%	.142	13.4
7. Henley	1.52	101.00%	-	3.2
8. Ixopo	0.56	58.50%	-	7.0
9. Shongweni	0.56	58.50%	-	7.0
10. Nungwane	2.22	101.20%	-	30.0

Source: Umgeni Water Graphic: Nolo Moima

sluice gates had been opened, spokeswoman Linda Page said. It had an outflow of 870 cubic metres (m³) a second.

In the Free State the capacity of the Bloemhof Dam was at 104 percent with an outflow of 1 000m³ a second.

The Gariep Dam, the largest dam in South Africa, was at 107 percent with an outflow of 1 670m³ a second, which was likely to increase to about 2 900m³ a second, Page said.

The capacity of the second largest dam, the Vanderkloof

Dam, was at 107.7 percent.

"The Department of Water Affairs wishes to urge all communities to exercise caution in the vicinity of the Vaal-Orange River System and affected dams," Page said.

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