

Flood damage close to R200 mln

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THE past two weeks have brought relief to areas of KwaZulu-Natal that were severely threatened by drought, but caused damage that runs close to R200 million so far.

A preliminary report issued by the Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Department says the costs of disaster management and recovery activities are currently calculated at R197 806 800.

Spokesperson Lennox Mabaso said this cost will primarily address damage to infrastructure related to housing, roads and bridges as well as school repairs and damage to agriculture.

"The costs further include replenishment of the relief stock provided to the victims as well as the management fee thereof if the rehabilitation has to be implemented once resources are secured to do so," said Mabaso.

Umgeni Water spokesperson, Shami Harichunder said the dam levels are looking very good.

"At this stage there is no major runoff water from the dams that could cause flooding because those that are full to capacity are relatively small like the Mearns Dam, which is at 119,23%, and Shongweni and Ixopo dams, which are currently both at 113,60%," said Harichunder.

He said their big dams like Inanda and Midmar are not full to capacity so there are no threats of flooding in surrounding areas.

"We are closely monitoring the situation to ensure that we're able to avoid any disaster," he added.

uThukela manager for public safety, Koos Breedts, said the Ladysmith Qedusizi flood control dam is back to a very low level, so there is little danger of further flooding. He also said the Klip river is also very low at the moment.

