

**Status of Water Resources in Umgeni Water's Service Areas and Projections on  
Rainfall  
Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
Issued by the Corporate Stakeholder Management Unit, Office of the Chief  
Executive, Pietermaritzburg**

Good unseasonal rains expected over the next two months will bring relief to many parched parts of KwaZulu-Natal and also boost dam levels, enhancing assurance of full water supply.

An analysis of rainfall received from March 2019 to February 2020, the current status of water resources in Umgeni Water's vast supply areas and projections of rainfall in March, April and May 2020 (early to late autumn) paints a picture of healthy water resource availability at this stage.

This analysis is contained in a report, titled Status of Water Resources: Umgeni Water's Operational Area, prepared by Umgeni Water and it is part of Umgeni Water's information sharing on storage in dams managed by the organisation, volumes of potable water supplied per quarter and water demand projections. An assessment of water resource availability in the Mgeni System – which provides for the water needs of an estimated 6 million consumers in uMgungundlovu, Pietermaritzburg and Durban – indicates that it is currently at an acceptable level.

Combined storage in the Mgeni System, or the average amount of water held in all six dams in this system, is at 68%. This means there is no risk of water shortages and associated supply failure occurring in the near future.

In the other supply areas of Umgeni Water – uThukela District; south of Durban and Middle South Coast in Ugu; north of Durban and parts of iLembe, and Ixopo within Harry Gwala District – water resources are also at an acceptable level and there is no risk of water shortages and accompanying supply failures occurring in the short-term.

South African Weather Service projections say rainfall of up to 300 mm is expected in the coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal during April and in May, coastal rainfall is forecast to peak at 200 mm.

When compared to a year ago, the combined amount of water resources in the Mgeni System has improved: in February 2019 total storage was at 59%, representing an increase of 9% in 2020. Two dams in the Mgeni System, Nagle and Inanda, have improved while the rest – Mearns, Spring Grove, Midmar and Albert Falls, are at levels similar to February/March 2019. Also in a state of improvement are Hazelmere in the north of Durban and iMvutshane in Maphumulo, and Woodstock, Spienkop and Wagendrift in uThukela District.

On Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the levels of dams were:

Upper Mgeni System: Spring Grove – 63%

Mearns – 102%

Midmar – 97%

Lower Mgeni System: Albert Falls – 35%

Nagle – 100%

Inanda – 82%

Middle South Coast: Nungwane – 101%

Umzinto – 100%

EJ Smith – 100%

Mhlabatshane – 62%

North of Durban and iLembe: Hazelmere – 56%

iMvutshane – 62%

Ixopo: Home Farm – 56%

uThukela District: Woodstock – 95%

Spioenkop – 100%

Wagendrift – 101%

The next two months will be crucial in respect of rainfall received in the catchments of the dams and the levels of dams in Umgeni Water's operational area. Close monitoring of levels of dams will continue, and consumers are urged again to use water sparingly as significant spikes in demand and high temperatures cause fast depletion of water resources. A comprehensive analysis of water resources in Umgeni Water's service area will be done again in May 2020.