



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **DWS warns KwaZulu-Natal residents against flooded rivers**

**14 November 2019**

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) would like to warn residents of KwaZulu-Natal not to swim or cross flooded bridges and rivers until the strong flows have subsided. The Province is currently experiencing heavy rainfalls and storms that have so far claimed 14 lives displaced hundreds others in various parts of the region.

The South African Weather Services has predicted more rains in the province until this coming weekend, prompting fears of more havoc and damage to the livestock and infrastructure.

Jay-walking in the rains that are accompanied by thunderstorms may place the lives of many people at risk and this must be avoided at all cost. Also, swimming in these conditions is not advisable as people may be wept off by the strong floods. Motorists and pedestrians are warned not to place their lives at risk by crossing flooded bridges and rivers.

The department would like to express its deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones to the storms. It has pledged its readiness to work with the provincial government and the affected municipalities to alleviate the plight of the destitute.

However, the persistent rains are expected to improve the water situation in the province following the alarming drop in dam levels in recent weeks. The latest report that was issued (before the heavy rains) by DWS indicated that the dam levels in the province had dropped to 52,3%, a drop by 6% compared to the period last year.

Meanwhile, despite the rains, residents are urged to continue to save water and use it sparingly. Furthermore, they are encourage to practise water harvesting as an affordable way of storing it for future use.





## water & sanitation

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**End**

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