



water & sanitation

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Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INTERNET ARTICLE

South Africa braces itself for Tropical Cyclone Dineo

17 February 2017

The Disaster Management Committee in Giyani, Limpopo, has been put on high alert to handle the consequences of a possible flash flood of Middle Letaba Dam whose level has risen to 102% since the arrival of Tropical Cyclone Dineo.

The Deputy Director General for Emergency Services in the Department of Water and Sanitation, Trevor Balzer, told a National Disaster Management Committee in Pretoria today that persistent heavy rains in Limpopo since last night have increased water levels in the dam to alarming proportions.

Disaster Management Centres in five provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North West and Free have been put on high alert for possible damage and loss of life that may occur as a result of Cyclone Dineo that arrived in South Africa on Friday morning (17th February 2017) from Mozambique.

The Department of Water and Sanitation is part of an inter-governmental effort, through the National Disaster Management Committee, to help rescue possible victims of flash floods that may occur and to repair damaged water infrastructure in order to restore water supply in affected areas.

Chief Metereologist in the South African Weather Services (SAWS), Kevin Ray, told the NDMC briefing that Tropical Cyclone Dineo was gradually dissipating as it went up inland. Various hydrological and geographical factors were forcing the storm to weaken slightly although it remains a serious threat. However, he cautioned against complacency as the storm would remain persistent in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and North West provinces.

On Thursday the storm is reported to have left a trail of structural damage in Inhambane Province of Mozambique when it unleashed heavy rains and strong winds that whizzed at 160 km per hour. It is reported that 160 000 Mozambicans have been displaced by the storm. The cyclone moved from the Indian Ocean before hitting the coastal belt of Mozambique where dozens of residents are reported to have been flooded.

Today the destructive phenomenon reached Northern KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, leaving in its wake a trail of damage. However, communities in areas of Zululand welcomed the cyclone for bringing the rain in the drought- stricken region. Many towns of Zululand region were the hardest hit by the drought when the El Nino brought about dry conditions.

This morning communities of Umkhanyakude towns of Mkuze, Ulundi, Vryheid, Nongoma and Pongola woke up to incessant downpours. The cyclone unleashed simultaneous rains in the Mpumalanga towns of Mbombela, Bushbuckridge, Hazyview, Thulamahashe and Barberton. On Saturday the cyclone is expected to extend its tentacles to the Limpopo towns of Polokwane, Vhembe, Tzaneen, Makhado and Musina.

The storm will move to Limpopo on Saturday where the Provincial Disaster Management has asked locals to be on high alert for any potential flash floods caused by the heavy rains. The



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storm is accompanied by strong winds which the National Joint Operations Centre has described as life-threatening.

On Sunday the cyclone is expected to make its way to parts of Free State and North West areas of Ngaka Modiri Region and Dr Ruth Mompati before subsiding.

Officers of the South African Police Services and the South African National Defence Force said their officials were on standby with their rescue missions of divers and helicopters to render humanitarian aid among affected communities.

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