

Reservoir to open for Diwali

NONDUMISO MBUYAZI

THERE was good news for the city yesterday, when Deputy Mayor Logie Naidoo announced that its major reservoir, Durban Heights, would reopen by tomorrow.

The reservoir was shut down on Monday for inspection, maintenance and to commission a new booster pump station and was only expected to reopen on October 19.

This caused concern among Durban's Hindu community, which celebrates Diwali on Saturday.

Areas that could be affected by the water restriction include Phoenix, Chatsworth, Sea Cow Lake and Verulam.

On hearing the news, many Hindu residents accused the city of showing indifference to them and their culture and that the city made it impossible for them to celebrate in comfort.



Naidoo said that while the city had been aware that the upgrade, planned a year ago, would coincide with Diwali, they had not anticipated the reaction.

As a result, the city had intervened.

Naidoo said that after meeting with the engineering team, he had established that they expected to complete the upgrade by tomorrow, in time for Diwali celebrations.

"The water supply will be back to normal at the weekend," he said.

Neil Macleod, head of eThekwinini Water and Sanitation, said the booster pump station was designed to augment the water supply to the

northern areas that were experiencing a water shortage.

He said that while water would be available, he urged Durban residents to use water sparingly and wisely.

"During this period, we will be receiving 30 percent less than demand from Umgeni Water."

The city had hired 60 water tankers as a contingency measure.

Naidoo, a Hindu, said he would be spending the weekend with the destitute, handing out food hampers at Crossmoor informal settlement and with his family.

"I will be handing out food hampers to residents of Crossmoor Informal settlement on Friday.

"On Saturday, I will distribute food parcels to friends, family and neighbours. The family will gather for lunch and later in the evening, we will light some fireworks," Naidoo said.

