

Monitoring of water reservoirs due to tropical storm Elsa

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The proximity of tropical storm Elsa to the east of the Cuban archipelago forces specialists to keep monitoring the reservoirs on Isla de la Juventud, today at 73.3 percent of their filling capacity. Yaisel Cobarrubias Bravo, delegate of the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources in the special municipality, specified that of the 14 dams that the territory has, eight relieve its waters: Briones Montoto, Cristal, Enlace, Mal País I, Vietnam, Río del Medio- Las Nuevas, Mal País II and Casas II, the latter upstream of a population settlement.

The rains of last June - with a record of 114 percent above the historical average of rainfall for the sixth month of the year - benefited the accumulated by storing more than 168 million cubic meters of water, the engineer pointed out to the highest authorities Of the territory.

He stressed that the second Cuban island has a total water storage capacity of 229 million 600 thousand cubic meters to support the demand for organisms, among which agriculture stands out, and has sufficient coverage of sodium hypochlorite in order to guarantee quality. of the vital fluid destined for human consumption.

Only two of these sources (Los Indios and Libertad) are open for prevention, El Abra -with importance for agricultural use- registers

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an accumulated 95.3 percent of dammed water, while they do not exceed 90 percent of its total capacity of filling Las Tunas (89.9), La Fe (76.4) and La Guanábana (21.1), which by infiltration recharges the water table (underground aquifers), he said.

He said that in the event of a flood caused by a sudden rupture of one of the artificial reservoirs, they have teams and a specialized brigade from Pinar del Río to solve it. Although they intensify the cleaning of registers and river grids to avoid flooding in low areas of the capital city, the intense rains associated with the tropical organism could compromise the situation of the municipality, due to excess humidity in the soil and obstructions in the sewage network added.

During the work session Edgardo Soler Torres, meteorologist, said that since the morning of July 5, the gradual deterioration of weather conditions is expected for the Los Canarreos archipelago, increased waves in Cayo Largo del Sur with swells of up to 2.5 meters high.

Meanwhile, for Isla de la Juventud heavy rains are forecast on Monday evening and during the following day, winds from the southern region of 25 to 40 kilometers per hour, higher in gust, he emphasized. Adiel Morera Macías, mayor, told the Cuban News Agency that the Zone Defense Councils have registered people affected by previous meteorological events, who currently live in temporary facilities (wooden huts) to evacuate them in centers if necessary of their communities or those established in the municipality.

The authorities in the special municipality insisted on the need to keep the reservoirs under strict surveillance and called on the population to avoid fishing in the spillways of the dams because of the danger it poses to their lives. In addition to the relevance of monitoring the lower areas of the city, prone to flooding due to the dragging of solid waste, the municipality insists on not neglecting measures to preserve material and human resources.