

## **‘Recent rainfall welcome addition, but not enough’**



Storage at the King Talal Dam currently stands at 41 per cent of its total capacity of 75mcm (JT file photo)

**AMMAN** - Although the recent rainfall boosted dam storage levels, the Kingdom has yet to achieve its annual water needs, a water official warned on Tuesday.

Rainfall on Saturday and Sunday channelled 6.2 million cubic metres (mcm) of water into the country’s major dams, raising storage levels to 106.2mcm, 45 per cent of their total capacity of 215mcm, according to Ministry of Water and Irrigation Assistant Secretary General and Spokesperson Adnan Zu’bi.

Wihdeh Dam, where water storage is currently experimental, holds 10.6mcm, or 10 per cent of its 110mcm capacity, according to ministry figures.

During the same period last year, the country’s major dams held 60 per cent of their capacity, or 130.6mcm, the figures indicate.

With this week’s rainfall, the Kingdom reached 65.5 per cent of the long-term annual average of eight billion millimetres.

Although the heavy rains brought by last weekend’s depression and cold air mass was a welcome addition, more rainfall is needed in order for the Kingdom to secure its long-term annual needs going into the summer, Zu’bi said.

"If the country witnesses another two depressions with similar amounts of rain, the water situation will be better," he told The Jordan Times over the phone yesterday.

Mujib Dam currently holds 66 per cent of its total capacity of 29.82mcm, while storage at the King Talal Dam currently stands at 41 per cent of its 75mcm total capacity, Zu’bi noted.

In light of the slow rainy season, the Water Authority of Jordan last month announced plans to boost water supply by tapping underground wells during the summer.

In December, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation announced a package of measures intended to maximise limited water resources, including banning the cultivation of summer crops, reducing irrigation water supply to farmers in the Jordan Valley and securing additional water resources such as privately owned wells.