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# Sunday Mail

January 16, 2011

www.cyprus-mail.com

€1.60

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# Reservoir inflow lowest since 2005

Bulk of rain so far has fallen over coastal areas, leaving reservoirs with less water

By Natalie Hami

**A**LMOST half way through the hydrological year, inflow to the island's reservoirs is at its worst levels since 2005, the water development department said yesterday.

Since October - the beginning of the hydrological year - only around 6.0 million cubic metres of water have flowed into the island's 18 reservoirs.

During the 2009/2010 season, 70 million cubic metres had reached the reservoirs during the same period - more than tenfold that of the current season.

And according to Sophocles Aletraris, the principal water engineer at the department, although rainfall last month was 110

per cent of normal, most of the water went into the sea or the ground.

"Plenty of rain has fallen over the last two months but not in the right places," said Aletraris.

"For us what is important is that the rain flows into the dams and not necessarily that we've had 110 per cent rain fall for December," he added.

He said that in December 2009, 23 million cubic metres poured into the dams but in December 2010 only 5.0 million cubic metres reached the reservoirs.

January has not fared much better halfway in to the month.

The same time last year 40 times more water had entered the reservoirs.

Aletraris said the reason

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Protesters sit and stand in front of Israeli soldiers during a demonstration by Palestinians, foreigners and left-wing Israeli peace activists against Israel's controversial separation barrier in the West Bank village of Maasarah, near the biblical town of Bethlehem (EPA)

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