

## Heed weather warnings and save lives

EVERY time we receive rainfall, we rejoice as it brings life, as water is life.

But it does not always end well as we sometimes lose lives and belongings due to the heavy downpours that wreak havoc in our lives and communities.

Thunderstorms and flashfloods are now a regular occurrence due to climate change, and we need to adjust to mitigate their impact.

Warnings are issued by relevant institutions on different media platforms about severe weather conditions, and ways to avoid their severe consequences.

We must heed these warnings to prevent disaster. Nothing much can be done to stop natural disasters, but we can play our part to mitigate their

extent and impact. Life is more important than anything else.

Always think about saving your life first, and the rest will follow. If you see danger coming your way, just run for your life and forget about your property. We only live once, but we can always rebuild.

We all have a role to play in preventing disasters related to heavy downpours and flashfloods. We need to be responsible and ensure that water flows naturally in our rivers and streams to prevent flooding. Let us stop using our water resources as waste dumping sites, as the waste blocks and prevents the normal flow of the

water, which can lead to flooding. This leads to damage to infrastructure, and sometimes to the loss of precious lives.

Blockages in our roads drainage systems also lead to flooding. Blocked drains turn roads into rivers. Blocked drains lead to flooded houses.

We need to play our part as responsible citizens and keep drainage systems clean and properly functioning to prevent flooding on our roads and in our residential areas.

Municipalities and road agencies must also play their part in ensuring proper and regular maintenance of drainage systems in their areas of operation, and must create awareness

among the public of the importance of keeping drainage systems clean and properly functioning.

It is everybody's responsibility to ensure the proper functioning of these systems.

We must also stop building along flood lines and flood-prone areas to prevent unnecessary disasters. The authorities must play their part in this. Working together as citizens and authorities, we can prevent flood-related disasters.

Water is life, but it can also be deadly, so let us always respect and heed weather warnings about heavy downpours and flashfloods to save lives and property.

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