



Keep watercourses clean and prevent disasters

WE are receiving heavy rainfall in most parts of the country. This is a good thing to recharge our water resources mainly due to South Africa being a water-scarce country.

As we have seen in recent weeks, the heavy downpours have been associated with flooding and infrastructure-related disasters. Houses and towns have been flooded, and rivers and roads washed away.

This has led to serious hardships for communities.

Inasmuch as nothing much can be done to stop natural disasters, we can play our part to mitigate the extent and impact of such disasters.

We also play a part in these disasters due to our irresponsible behaviour

and disregard for the environment. We have turned our water resources into dumping sites, and this negatively affects the natural flow of water in the rivers and streams.

The waste we dump next to our watercourses gets washed into the rivers and streams during rainfall, affecting the flow of water and leading to blockages in bridges and eventually leading to the collapse of the bridges.

This leads to serious socio-economic hardships as communities are cut off from economic hubs and have to spend much more to travel to meet their essential needs.

This needs us to respect our water resources and promote their protection and keep them clean and free-flowing.

Dumping waste in water resources is deadly because it makes the water unfit for human use and affects the normal flow of water in rivers and streams.

During heavy rains, the waste in the systems forms a barrier leading to the diversion of rivers and streams and eventually flooding. Waste blocks the natural flow of water in rivers and stream, causing a danger to people around the river systems.

Let us refrain from using our rivers, streams and other watercourses as dumping sites and prevent disasters. Our roads infrastructure is now a mess due to blocked drainage systems. Water can no longer go through the drains as we throw all kinds of waste,

leading to blockages and infrastructure degradation.

We can do better by simply being responsible citizens. Municipalities and road maintenance agencies must ensure that the road drains are always working properly.

Inasmuch as the heavy downpours have brought some disasters and misery, it also gives us an opportunity to do introspection and to start doing things differently.

It teaches us to respect and protect our water resources, and to ensure they are always clean and the water flowing freely. It teaches us not to use water resources as dumping sites.

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