

# Respect weather warnings and do your bit to prevent flooding

Every time we receive some rainfall, we rejoice as it brings life as water is life. But it does not always end well as we sometimes lose lives and valuable belongings due to the heavy downpours which can wreak havoc in our lives and communities because of the thunderstorms and flashfloods that often come with rain.

Thunderstorms and flashfloods are now a regular occurrence as effects of climate change, and we need to adjust to mitigate the severe impacts associated with the negative weather conditions.

Warnings are issued by the relevant institutions on different media platforms all the time about severe weather conditions and the ways to avoid severe negative consequences.

Our duty as citizens is to heed these warnings and act to prevent possible dire consequences and disasters.

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

Life is the most important thing, so it is important to prioritise your life and the lives around you. 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 you will see your property later as we only live once but we can always rebuild our homes.

We all have a role to play to prevent 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 prevents the normal flow of the water and can even divert the water flow, leading to flooding. This leads to damage to infrastructure and sometimes to the loss of precious lives.

Blockages in our road drainage systems also lead to flooding, affecting the roads and houses around the roads. Blocked drains turn roads into rivers, negatively affecting people and posing a serious danger to all road users.

Blocked drains also negatively affect surrounding residential areas, leading to flooded houses putting people's lives and property at risk.

We need to play our part as responsi-

ble citizens and keep drainage systems clean and functioning properly to prevent flooding in our roads and residential areas.

Municipalities and road agencies must also play their part in ensuring the proper and regular maintenance of drainage systems in their areas of operation, and also create awareness among the public of the importance of keeping the drainage systems clean and functioning properly.

We must also stop building along the flood lines and flood-prone areas to prevent unnecessary disasters.

The authorities must also play their part and prevent people from building along the floodplains and in dangerous areas.

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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*Handwritten signature and date: 29/04/22*