



RAIN fell in abundance over Durban yesterday. Reporters and photographers saw the damage to people's lives first hand yesterday. Here two petrol storage tanks transported by trucks were swept into the ocean in Durban. | THEO JEPHTA African News Agency (ANA)

## We must all work to mitigate the effects of flooding

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

But it does not always end well as we sometimes lose lives and valuable belongings because of the thunderstorms and flashfloods.

These are now a regular occurrence as the effects of climate change, and we need to adjust to mitigate the severe impacts.

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.

We all have a role to play to prevent disasters related to heavy downpours and flashfloods. We need to be respon-

sible 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. This leads to damage to infrastructure and sometimes to the loss of precious lives.

Blockages in our roads drainage systems also lead to flooding affecting the roads and houses around the roads.

We need to play our part as responsible citizens and keep drainage systems clean and properly functioning.

Municipalities and road agencies must also play their part in ensuring proper and regular maintenance of drainage systems. It is everybody's

responsibility to ensure the proper functioning of these systems to prevent disasters in our communities.

We must also stop building along the flood lines and flood prone areas to prevent unnecessary disasters. The authorities must also play their role and prevent people building along the floodplains and dangerous areas. Working together as citizens and authorities, we can prevent flood related disasters.

Let us always respect and heed weather warnings about heavy downpours and flash floods to save lives and property.

**THEMBA KHOZA** | Department of Water and Sanitation

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