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Rising rivers, dams a danger to communities living nearby

Marcus Monyakeni, via email - The Department of Water and Sanitation welcomes recent rains that soaked most parts of the country, positively filling rivers and dams to a desired capacity. However, these rains have caused some floods in some areas, leading to untold damages.

Some areas in the country experienced major rainfall that has caused damages and floods a trail of destruction with loss of property, livestock and human lives lost due to heavy rain in a form of flash floods.

Members of the public are warned not to participate in any form of activities in isolated dams and heavy flowing rivers as that might endanger their lives.

With ever changing weather patterns switching from hot to extreme heatwave, children find themselves idling as a result they seek a place to cool down the heat at wrong places.

Those places happen to be dams and rivers, looking at the reports in most rural areas found to be either stagnated water, dams and rivers caused by heavy rains that fell in the past week. Boys top the list of children who drowned in rivers. A call for engagement with boys on river and dam's safety by community members and the parents.

The same resonance goes to adults in Christian circles where members are still being baptized in flowing rivers. The Department of Water and

Sanitation (DWS) urges congregations and their preachers to be mindful of safety to their members, before attempting any ceremonial in both dams and rivers. Traditional healers are also urged to practice safety-first in dams and rivers as this might also save lives.

Just to mention the few incidents, in the Free State at Liebenbergvlei Dam near Bethlehem people drowned whilst performing baptism, with similar cases reported in Welkom.

In Limpopo Ntwane village in Moutse just outside Groblersdal a body of a man who drowned in a dam whilst fishing was also recovered.

This shows how serious is the situation with regards to rising of dams and rivers across the country.