## COMMENT



KHULEKANI NGCOBO

## Let's clean up our drains

IT IS no longer uncommon to see huge piles of wastes, old house items, construction waste or used products dumped by the roadside, in the forests, or non-designated dumping sites.

This trend is on the rise and is increasingly becoming a problem because it hinders the objective of keeping the environment clean and can have serious impact on our lives.

Illegal dumping in water drains could pose a significant problem in the case of flooding.

Storm drains are designed for catching rain water only. Dumping trash or other pollutants down storm-drain inlets is illegal and have environmental, social and economic effects. If a neighbour is disposing their trash in the storm drain, they may not understand that drain inlets directly connect to our creeks and rivers.

If you have an amicable relationship with your neighbour, it may be just a matter of informing and making them aware of its environmental impact. If it is someone who you feel is knowingly violating and repeatedly dumping into storm drains, report them to your local authorities.

If we all work together to invest in our own properties we can help reduce the threat of flooding. If we are mindful of what we put down our drains, it is likely we won't need to clear them of debris very often.

Khulekani Ngcobo is a senior communicator at the Department of Water and Sanitation



31 January 2022