

Water gives life, let's also be careful with it

LET us be responsible, take care and save lives around watercourses

Most parts of the country are receiving much-needed rainfall. As we celebrate the filling up of dams and the recharging of rivers and other watercourses, it is important to remember that water can be dangerous and deadly. It is therefore important that we become responsible, heed weather warnings and take care to protect properties and save lives.

As South Africa is a water-scarce country, we always become excited when we receive good rainfall as it plays a major role in water security. Rain is important to fill up our dams and rivers, and ensure adequate water storage to take us through the dry winter season.

As we celebrate the falling rain, let us be careful and remember that heavy rains often lead to floods which cause hardships for many.

It is therefore critical that we become responsible citizens and become extra careful to prevent disasters and the loss of precious lives and property.

If we look closely at the disasters and loss of lives associated with heavy

rains, we can see that they are mainly the result of irresponsible human actions. We can prevent these disasters by simply not trying to cross raging rivers and streams. People get washed away trying to cross flooded bridges and fast-flowing rivers, so let us be responsible and stop risking our lives.

Let us also be responsible and stop performing traditional and religious rituals in fast flowing rivers during heavy rainfall as the chances of drowning and being washed away are very high. The rituals can be put on hold until the river flows are back to normal and save lives.

What is worrying is that more and more people are building on floodlines putting their lives and properties at risk. People need to understand that building on the flood plains is a recipe for disaster.

Municipalities and other relevant authorities need to step up and prevent the construction on the floodlines to prevent unnecessary disasters and loss of lives.

Let us also be responsible citizens and prevent the pollution of our rivers, streams and other watercourses as pollution leads to flooding and prevents the natural flow of watercourses.

Water is life, but it can also be deadly. Therefore, it is important to be responsible and respect water and the watercourses.

We must be responsible and extra cautious as we celebrate the falling rain which gives us water, the source of life, to prevent unnecessary disasters and loss of lives. | **THEMBA KHOZA** Mpumalanga