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LETTERS | Our behaviour can help prevent flood damage

February 01, 2026 at 00:00 am

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Opinion

Sunday Times Letters



The recent floods that ravaged the provinces of Mpumalanga and Limpopo and the Kruger National Park show that climate change is a reality and leaves devastation in its path, writes Themba Khoza in Mbombela. (SANParks Facebook)

The recent floods that ravaged the provinces of Mpumalanga and Limpopo and the Kruger National Park show that climate change is a reality and leaves devastation in its path. The floods had a devastating effect on people, animals and nature.

With climate change and more powerful storms upon us, we must mitigate the devastating effects of floods. One of the most important ways to do this is to respect floodlines and stop constructing houses on floodplains.

Floodlines are used to inform developers, landowners and residents of potential flood dangers, guiding safe construction practices and land-use planning. Floodlines must always be included in township establishment plans and building plans to restrict developments in high-risk areas — and municipalities and the relevant authorities must ensure that communities comply.

The onus for our safety rests on every individual. People are encouraged not to invade and build on floodplains. Let's be responsible and not put our lives, the lives of our families, and our investments at risk.

Good and responsible behaviour can go a long way in preventing flood damage. Let's stop using our rivers, streams and other watercourses as dump sites, as waste blocks the natural flow of rivers, leading to floods.

Let us all be responsible citizens and make water safety a priority to prevent the loss of lives. Adhering to water safety protocols is no longer just a precaution; it's a necessity for survival.

— *Themba Khoza, Mbombela*
