

FLOODING

Call to heed, respect weather warnings

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EVERY time we receive rainfall, we rejoice as it brings life because water is life. But it does not always end well as we sometimes lose lives and valuables due to the heavy downpours, thunderstorms and flash floods that wreak havoc in our lives and communities.

Thunderstorms and flash floods are regular occurrences, and they are the effects of climate change. We need to adjust to mitigate the severe impacts associated with the negative weather.

Relevant institutions issue warnings all the time about severe weather and ways to avoid severe negative consequences on various media platforms. Our task is to heed the warnings and prevent dire consequences and disasters. In as much as nothing much can be done to stop natural disasters, we can play our part to mitigate their extent and impact.

Life is more important than anything else, so it is important to prioritise one's life and those around you. Always think about saving your life first, and the rest will follow. If you see danger coming your way, run for your life. You will see your property later. We only live once, but we can rebuild again.

We all have a role to play to prevent disasters related to heavy downpours and flash floods. We need to be responsible 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 because the waste blocks and prevents the normal flow and diverts the water flow, leading to flooding. This damages infrastructure and sometimes leads to



A WHOLE left hand lane is completely wiped out during a landslide caused by heavy rains in Morningside, Durban. | DOCTOR NGCOBO African News Agency (ANA)

the loss of precious lives.

Blockages in our road drainage systems also lead to flooding, which affects roads and houses. Blocked drains turn roads into rivers, negatively affecting and posing serious danger to all road users. Blocked drains also negatively affect surrounding residential areas, leading to flooded houses and putting lives and property at risk. We, as responsible citizens, need to play our part by keeping drainage systems clean and properly functioning to

prevent flooding in our roads and residential areas.

Municipalities and road agencies must also play their part by ensuring proper and regular maintenance of drainage systems in their areas of operation and also create awareness among the public of the importance of keeping the drainage systems clean and properly functioning. It is everybody's responsibility to ensure the proper functioning of the systems to prevent disasters in our communities.

We must also stop building along flood lines and flood-prone areas in order to prevent unnecessary disasters. The authorities must also play their role and prevent people building along the floodplains and dangerous areas.

Water is life, but it can also be deadly, so let us always respect and heed weather warnings about heavy downpours and flash floods.

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