

Heed and respect weather warnings and save lives

Themba Khoza writes:

Every time we receive some rainfall, we rejoice, as water is life. But it does not always end well, as we sometimes lose lives and valuable belongings due to the heavy downpours that wreak havoc in our lives and communities. Thunderstorms and flashfloods are now a regular occurrence as effects of climate change, and we need to mitigate the severe impacts associated with the negative weather conditions.

Warnings are issued by relevant institutions on different media platforms about severe weather conditions and ways to avoid negative consequences all the time. We have to heed these warnings and prevent dire consequences and disasters. Inasmuch as nothing much can be done to stop natural disasters, we can play our part to mitigate the extent and impact of such disasters.

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, just run for your life. You will see your property later, as we only live once and can rebuild.

We all have a role to play to prevent disasters related to heavy downpours and flashfloods. We need to be responsible and ensure that water flows naturally in our rivers and streams. Let us stop using our water resources as waste dumping sites, as the waste blocks and prevents and diverts the normal flow, leading to flooding. This leads to damage to infrastructure and sometimes to the loss of precious lives.

Blockages in our roads drainage systems also lead to flooding, affecting the roads and houses around the roads.

Blocked drains turn roads into rivers, negatively affecting and posing serious dangers to all road users.

Blocked drains also negatively affect surrounding residential areas, leading to flooded houses, putting people's lives and property at risk. We need to play our part as

responsible citizens and keep drainage systems clean and properly functioning to prevent flooding in our roads and residential areas.

Municipalities and road agencies must also play their part in 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.

We must also stop building along the flood lines and flood-prone areas to prevent unnecessary disasters. The authorities must also play their role and prevent people building along the floodplains and dangerous areas. Working together as citizens and authorities, we can prevent flood-related disasters.

Water is life, but it can also be deadly, so let us always respect and heed weather warnings about heavy downpours and flashfloods to save lives and property.

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