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WE ARE currently receiving heavy rainfall in most parts of the country. This is a good thing to recharge our water resources mainly due to South Africa being a water-scarce country.

As we have seen in recent weeks, the heavy downpours have been associated with flooding and infrastructure-related disasters. Houses and towns have been flooded, and rivers and roads washed away. This has led to serious hardships for communities.

Nothing much can be done to stop natural disasters, but we can play our part in mitigating the extent and impact of such disasters. We also play a part in causing these disasters due

Keep watercourses clean, prevent disasters

to our irresponsible behaviour and disregard for the environment.

We have turned our water resources into dumping sites, and this negatively affects the natural flow of water in rivers and streams. The waste we dump next to our water courses gets washed into rivers and streams when it rains, which affects the flow of water and leads to blockages at bridges, and ultimately their collapse.

This leads to serious socio-economic hardships as communities are cut off from economic hubs and have

to spend much more to travel to meet their essential needs. Thus we must respect our water resources and promote their protection, and keep them clean and free flowing.

Dumping waste in water resources is deadly as it makes the water unfit for human use, and also affects the normal flow of water in rivers and streams. During heavy rains, the waste in the systems forms a barrier, leading to the diversion of rivers and streams, and eventually flooding.

Let us refrain from using our riv-

ers, streams and other watercourses as dumping sites, and thus help prevent disasters.

Our roads infrastructure is now a mess due to blocked drainage systems. Water can no longer flow through the drains as our litter leads to blockages and infrastructure degradation. We can do better by being responsible citizens.

Although the downpours have brought disasters and misery, they also provide us with an opportunity to start doing things differently.

Let us not to use our water resources as dumping sites.

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