

Celebrate rainfall, but never underestimate the power of water

Themba Khoza writes:

South Africa, being a water-scarce country, always welcomes rain as it brings more water. The country celebrates rainfall as it increases our water resources and recharges our groundwater sources. But what is distressing is that every time we receive the much-needed rain, we lose precious lives and property.

This unnecessary loss of lives and property can be avoided and prevented simply by being responsible citizens. Many of these deadly incidents are results of irresponsible behaviour and ignorance. We always receive advice and warnings on all media platforms, but most people tend to ignore such and end



Themba Khoza.

up in a ditch.

We must always be vigilant and respect water, especially on rainy days. Water is so powerful and can deceive you if you are not careful. We need to always put our safety first to prevent disasters in our communities. As the rains nowadays are associated with thunderstorms and flooding, it is important that we are always extra cautious to save lives and property. We must never underestimate the power, strength and speed of water and raging rivers and streams.

Never try to cross submerged and flooded bridges as this poses a high risk of being swept away. Don't try to cross fast-flowing and ravaging rivers and streams. Never try to swim and prevent kids playing near these watercourses.

It is also important to avoid riverbanks on rainy days as the rivers and streams swell. This also brings the importance of respecting and observing flood lines. Ignored and building on flood lines is a recipe for disaster and leads to loss of precious lives and property. Always remember that it is important to respect flood lines as they are there for a reason, and the main reason is to protect and save lives. It is not good to see people on the flood lines being washed away with their properties, but this can simply be prevented by listening and abiding to authorities. Flood lines are there to ensure that people are always on higher ground and safe from swelling watercourses and flooding.

Ignorance is the main problem as warnings are always issued to prevent disasters. Let us be responsible citizens and heed the warnings to save lives and property. In as much as crossing the river or stream may be a short cut to our destinations, let us either take the long way or wait for the water to subside so as to save lives. Better be late than to be dead. Let us be responsible and avoid ignorance to save lives and property.

A handwritten signature or set of initials in black ink, appearing to be 'AK' or similar, written in a stylized, cursive manner.

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