



INTERNET ARTICLE

Water safety crucial during the festive season

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The worst drought to hit the country post 1994 has seen residents across the country facing tough water restrictions, scores of rural communities have watched their water pipes run dry and hundreds of farmers have seen their crops wither or livestock die in the extreme heat.

With the holiday season in full swing and with the rising temperature, the only thing on one's mind is to go for a swim and cool off, this unfortunately results in incidents of drowning. Safety should however be at the forefront of everyone particularly parents going on holiday with their children.

Mr Johan Mattly Greyling from the Cooperative Inland Waterways Safety Programme at the Department of Water and Sanitation notes that the drought has led to water levels changing and underwater obstacles that previously might not have been a danger suddenly become dangerous under water obstacles for moving vessels.

Mr Greyling also explained that with dam water levels still being low, broken glass is likely to be exposed along the shore edge and in shallow water. People therefore are advised to wear proper boating shoes with solid soles to minimize stepping on broken glass. Broken glass trauma to feet is very painful, debilitating, damaging and very expensive to treat.

Moreover, everyone should always swim with an adult who can swim and only swim in a public pool or sea if there is a lifeguard on duty. People should also refrain from diving into the water unless the lifeguard says it is safe to do so and they should never run along the edge of the swimming pool or push people in.

Mr Greyling has also advised, "When embarking a vessel including a boat of any size, skis or a sailboard wind surfer, wear a life jacket, as it will keep you afloat and alive, should the vessel capsize." Strictly adhere to all regulations pertaining to the use of any vessel, as they are designed to ensure ones safety.

Safety is therefore vital and everyone should be wise and vigilant because water is dangerous whether one can or cannot swim.

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