



INTERNET ARTICLE

SAWS urges the public to be cautious ahead of looming floods

22 March 2018

In a statement released by the South African Weather Services (SAWS) on 21 March 2018, members of the public have been urged to take precautionary measures ahead of the possible floods over the next couple of days in parts of South Africa.

The possible floods as reported by SAWS may be caused by the heavy rainfall expected over the eastern parts of South Africa from 22 to 23 March 2018, due to a steep upper air trough associated with a weak cold front.

Provinces to be affected by the heavy rainfall include the eastern parts of the Free State, parts of North-West, Gauteng, Highveld areas of Mpumalanga and parts of KwaZulu-Natal. This weather pattern is said to persist until Friday in Gauteng, the western parts of Mpumalanga, eastern parts of North-West as well as the eastern parts of the Free State.

Moreover, SAWS stated “severe thunderstorms are expected over the central and south eastern parts of the Northern Cape on Thursday, 22 March”.

In ensuring the safety of the public SAWS has advised people to stay indoors where possible, to avoid crossing rivers and swollen streams where water is above your ankles and to switch off electricity at the supply point to the building.

Furthermore, SAWS has advised motorists never to drive on a road covered or obscured by water, to seek for higher ground when trapped in the vehicle and to be especially cautious at night when it is difficult to identify flood hazards.

Over the past couple of years, South Africa has been hit by a number of floods leaving a number of people dead. Residents are therefore urged to heed the precautionary measures by SAWS to ensure their safety.

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