



**transport**

Department:  
Transport  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**MINISTER OF TRANSPORT DR BLADE NZIMANDE ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE FESTIVE SEASON ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN AND THE COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS HELD AT MODIMOLLE, LIMPOPO**

**19 November 2018**

**Premier of Limpopo, Mr. Chupu Mathabatha**

**Kgoshi Dikgale;**

**Limpopo MEC for Transport, Ms. Makoma Makhurupetje;**

**Executive Mayor of the Waterberg District Municipality, Cllr Mataboge;**

**Mayor of the Modimolle Mokgopong Municipality, Cllr Van Staden;**

**Leadership of Political Parties;**

**Interfaith Ministers (Abafundisi namabandla akulendawo);**

**Limpopo House of Traditional Leadership;**

**Leadership of SANTACO led by President, Mr. Phillip Taaibosch;**

**Leadership of the Bus Industry;**

**Boards of all government Entities;**

**DOT Acting Director General, Mr. Chris Hlabisa and your provincial counterpart, Ms. Hanelie du Plessis;**

**CEO's of all government Entities;**

**Senior Government Officials;**

**Non-Governmental Organisations;**

**Community Members;**

**Members of the media;**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

The right to life is enshrined in our Constitution under the Bill of Rights.

The crafters of our Constitution, led by amongst others, the President of the Republic, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, were alive to the reality that as a people, we need to preserve lives.

As the South African government, in the letter and spirit of our Constitution, we developed laws and legislation in support of this noble idea of saving lives on our roads.

This is the reason we are so relentless in our fight against road carnages.

Day and night, we are in pursuit of interventions, both human and scientific, to ensure that we fight the scourge of road carnage.

We are gathered here today to officially launch the festive season road safety campaign and to offer our prayers in commemorating the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, celebrated under the theme “Roads have Stories”.

We also remember the plight of their loved ones who must cope with the consequences of their deaths or injuries.

I hereby call upon us all to stand up and observe a moment of silence in remembrance of all those who died and all those injured on our roads and those of the world.... THANK YOU.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States, road crashes are the leading cause of death in people aged between five to 34 years.

It is the leading cause of death globally for children and young people aged between 10 to 24 years, and the third leading cause of death globally among people aged between 30 to 44 years.

Every six seconds someone is killed or injured on the world’s roads, including drivers, passengers, motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

1 676 people died on our roads for the period starting December 1st, 2017, to January 15th, 2018.

During this period, we recorded a noticeable decline in fatalities in seven (7)

provinces with the exception of the Western Cape and the North West provinces.

Limpopo was a star performer as it managed to achieve the highest reduction. It was followed by the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal.

Notwithstanding the very small decrease from 2016, the death rate on our roads are unacceptably high.

In Limpopo, more than 44 people died between the months of September and November 2018.

Amongst the major crashes recorded during this period is the overturned bus travelling from Zambia to Gauteng where ten (10) people died; a horrific bus crash that claimed twenty-eight (28) lives involving a minibus taxi, truck and light delivery vehicle on the N1 between Mookgophong and Kranskop, and the Modimolle Mountain site crash where six (6) people died after a collision between a sedan and an LDV vehicle.

### **Premier**

I noted with concern the loss of life that continued to occur on the N1 particularly on the stretch of the road between Kranskop and Polokwane.

I promised that to get to the bottom of this. SANRAL appointed a team of independent investigators to investigate the cause of these horrific crashes.

The investigations revealed that the current road infrastructure is not the main cause of these crashes.

However, the investigations pointed to driver behavior and lack of visible law enforcement as the main contributory factors.

Heavy vehicles pass each other on the uphill areas resulting in drivers of light motor vehicles often losing patience and utilizing lanes dedicated to oncoming traffic.

Most these crashes occur in the afternoon to early evening when traffic volumes are at their peak and the road surface temperatures at their highest. Most of these crashes happens from Thursday to Sunday.

The investigations indicate that the separation of the northbound and southbound carriageways between Kranskop and Makhado would be necessary in future.

In order to immediately redress the situation, as all spheres of government, we must pull resources together to maximum the visibility of our law enforcement officers in the entire N1 North corridor.

Currently, SANRAL is re-marking the roads to improve visibility and also clearing

the road reserves to provide for a safer road shoulder.

In the long term, SANRAL will upgrade the entire N1 route from Kranskop to a dual carriageway divided by a median. The project is estimated to cost R4.2 billion.

Ladies and gentlemen

Vehicle conditions, particularly tyre burst is amongst the led phenomenon that caused these crashes.

This is the reason I announced my intention to meet with tyre manufacturing companies, freight logistic companies and the taxi associations to solicit their support and commitment in deal with this problem.

This does not exonerate drivers of private motor vehicles who are also perpetuating this costly trend.

I therefore want to appeal to all vehicle drivers to stop buying counterfeit tyres. Go into authorized dealerships and buy genuine tyres.

By doing so, you will not only be protecting your life but also that of fellow road users.

I also want to appeal to all motorists to ensure that at all material times your vehicles are mechanically roadworthy. Asizifuni izikorikoro ezihamba zifa emgwaqeni.

Drivers must also ensure that they are also fit and proper to operate their vehicles.

### **Premier Mathabatha**

SANRAL, as a government agency is responsible for providing a safe road network, with high mobility and good riding.

Through SANRAL we have recently upgraded sections between Makhado and Musina, and are currently upgrading the section between Beit Bridge and Musina.

As you might be aware, SANRAL is currently addressing all the contractual obligations relating to the construction company that is contracted to construct the Polokwane interchange.

Unfortunately, the company went into business rescue. The business rescue plan was then presented to creditors and approved to grant the company to commence with its operations.

The latest information I have is that they are planning to be back onsite in full capacity towards end of January 2018.

We remain committed to complete this section of the ring road expeditiously in order to de-congest the Polokwane CBD, to improve road safety and the ambience of the CBD.

I want to strong condemn the action of some rogue elements masquerading as business people, who simply advance a political agenda by demanding a 30% share of BEE from SANRAL.

These are criminal elements which must be isolated as they totally misrepresent government policy and take advantage of the unsuspecting business man and communities. In KwaZulu Natal, they call themselves **AMADELANGOKUBONA**.

Premier, I want to assure you that the main contracted company for this project is a BEE level 3, with 60% black ownership of which 28% are black women.

SANRAL is also commit to the construction of interchanges at cross roads such as the Burgersfort (R37), Tzaneen (R71), and R81 roads, which will also improve the accessibility to Moria and nearby villages.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

We have given the Road Accident Fund the task to ensure that it reaches out to the community and provide the much needed social-net services to all the victims of road crashes.

In 2017, the Road Accident fund paid over R144 million to cover funeral costs, and paid over R34 billion annually on payments of claims and also provided post-traumatic care to road crash survivors and their families.

If all road users prioritise road safety, the resources that government spends unwittingly on crashes would be redirected to other government priorities such as education and health.

We spend about R162 Billion annually on road crashes which is equal to 3.4% of the country's GDP.

Today, the RAF Mobile offices are onsite to assist claimants with status checks and claims registrations.

Before leave today, visit their stall and those of our other entities for more information on transport related services and careers.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

The festive season is fast approaching, marked by an increased movement of

people, vehicles and goods across and beyond our country.

The government Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster is ready to ensure that all citizens and visitors to our country are and feel safe.

Over this period law enforcement agencies will protect the public by enforcing the law and maintaining stability in partnership with communities we serve.

As government, we have spread our wings jointly informed by our uniform working norms and standards.

I want to remind all road users that Road Safety is not negotiable and that it is everyone's responsibility.

For those who do not want to co-operate with us, we will be left with no option but to cut their journeys short by arresting them, impounding their vehicles and imposing hefty fines.

Road users must know that government will be introducing minimum sentences for negligent and reckless driving, particularly with the intent to reclassify drunken driving from a Schedule 3 to a more severe Schedule 5 offence.

This will ensure that all those who negligently cause crashes on the road do not get bail easily and spend time behind bars until they appear in court.

The number of halfway stations on all national routes will be increased to assist drivers, long distance public transport and freight drivers to deal with fatigue and lifestyle illnesses such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

Our traffic law enforcement officers will continue to conduct more roadblocks throughout the country.

They will be targeting enforcement of legislation of wearing seatbelts, using cell phones while driving, un-roadworthy vehicles, as well as drunken driving, excessive speed and other moving violations.

We will also conduct road safety education and awareness activations throughout the country, targeting hazardous locations to encourage voluntary compliance of road rules.

We call upon all provinces to ensure that they implement the 24/7 law enforcement shift to ensure visibility and presence of traffic officers at all material times.

Municipalities must also ensure that they maximize their visibility and patrol their cities and towns throughout the festive season.

At the conclusion of the parliamentary processes, we will be implementing the

AARTO Amendment Bill which introduces the point demerits system.

The intention of this Bill is to improve the conduct and behaviour of drivers. Through this Bill, we will be able to profile habitual offenders in accordance to their conduct on the road.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

I want to call upon all road users to obey the rules of the road.

Drivers must not drink and drive, not text and driving, not to exceed the speed limit and ensure that your vehicles are roadworthy.

All passengers should wear seatbelts and children must always be put in child restraints or child seats. Pedestrians must wear bright clothes at night.

I also want to make a call to all public transport operators and the freight logistics companies not to overload passengers and goods or carry them in the same vehicle compartment.

Drivers must take appropriate rest-stops to avoid fatigue. We always advice that for every 200km or in 2hrs, drivers must rest because fatigue kills.

To all those that will be travelling outside of South Africa, we urge them to plan their journeys in advance and carry the necessary documentation to avoid decongest our ports of entry.

South Africa's ports of entry will have extended operating hours this festive season and will operate with increased capacity.

Government has a zero-tolerance stance towards corruption. Officials in all their place of work must resist from taking bribes – and the public must also not tempt them with bribes.

Corruption is against the law and perpetrators will face the full might of the law.

Corrupt acts and fraud must be reported to 0800 701 701 and the public is call upon to report any traffic violations to 0861 400 800.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all faith-based organization for their continued support.

It is through your prayers and support that the road safety message will resonate in the minds of all South Africans.

Please continue to work with us to ensure that the moral fibre of our society is on always check and restored.

I also call for a continuous partnership with media to use their public platforms to

spread the road safety message.

I wish all South Africans a joyous festive season and a prosperous new year.

Let us all Arrive Alive!

Ke ya le boga! I thank you!