

MEDIA STATEMENT

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THE ROAD ACCIDENT FUND &

MPUMALANGA DEPT. OF COMMUNITY, SAFETY, SECURITY AND LIAISON

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ROAD SAFETY THE WINNER AS RAF AND MPUMALANGA JOIN FORCES

A road safety partnership borne out of the needless carnage of accident victims was strengthened when the Road Accident Fund's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Eugene Watson, met with Mpumalanga MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Vusi Shongwe, last week.

MEC Shongwe, who officially opened the RAF's newest Customer Service Centre (CSC) at Nelspruit's Canary Mall recently, engaged the RAF CEO on matters pertaining to the promotion of road safety, service delivery and the transport entity's role in covering, compensating and rehabilitating road accident victims in the province. MEC Shongwe tragically lost his daughter in a car accident in Ermelo almost a year ago.

"As a firm advocate of service delivery, it is important that services provided by a public entity like RAF be made accessible to all road users. We commend the RAF for continuing to execute its mandate as diligently as it has done despite the many challenges it faces, and look forward to working jointly with it on Operation Sethu, the road safety campaign launched last November in Mpumalanga Province," said MEC Shongwe.

Shongwe continued: "The carnage on our roads continues unabated, resulting in the death of breadwinners and loved ones. Homes are disintegrating, leaving families and the nation devastated because innocent lives are being lost. We must work together to eradicate these road crashes. Road safety remains everybody's business and with increased co-operation, including extra vigilance, we can all make our roads much safer."

Echoing the MEC's sentiments, Dr Watson reiterated the RAF's 'My Road Your Road' safety campaign message: obey the rules of the road, but also be more considerate and aware of those around you, whether you are a driver, passenger or pedestrian. "You are not alone: yield, give right of way, and take into consideration the needs of other road users."

The RAF was particularly concerned with the high number of incidents involving children. With the leading cause of death in the world in the 15 - 30 age groups being road crashes, it is imperative that adults be on the lookout for youngsters when driving on the road.

In the unfortunate event of being involved in a car crash, Mpumalanga claimants can make use of the existing network of nine RAF Hospital Service Centres (HSCs) in the province (98 in total countrywide), five regional offices, five CSCs (including Mbombela), and satellite offices or walk-in-centres scattered throughout all nine provinces. This wide footprint enables the RAF to service crash victims directly or face-to-face, expedite the claim process, and enhance the overall customer experience.

The Mpumalanga HSCs are based at the following hospitals: **Rob Ferreira Hospital** (Mbombela); **Tonga Hospital** (Tonga); **Standerton Hospital** (Standerton); **Witbank Hospital** (EMalahleni); **Evander Hospital** (Evander); **Kwa-Mhlanga Hospital** (Kwa-Mhlanga); **Themba Hospital** (White River/Kabokweni); **Mapulaneng Hospital** (Bushbuckridge); and **Ermelo Hospital** (Ermelo).

Alternatively, claimants may phone the RAF Call Centre from Monday to Friday between 07h45 to 16h00 on **0860 23 55 23**. Agents are available to assist in all 11 official languages, while there is also a call back functionality where the public can leave their contact details after hours, and their call will be returned the next working day.

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