



Media Statement

29 March 2016

Shongwe applauds traffic officers for the successes made during Easter weekend

The commitment that is continually displayed through the hard work of traffic officers should be commended as this is expected to go a long way in curbing road crashes and lawlessness on our roads.

This is according to Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe after the presentation of this year's Easter road safety statistics, which showed a decrease on road crashes and fatalities between 24 and 28 March 2016 as compared to last year's Easter.

This year, the province recorded 84 crashes and 25 lives were lost in the province including six pedestrians while during last year's Easter, 97 crashes were recorded and 27 people died. 151 people were injured during this year's crashes while 199 were injured in 2015.

MEC Shongwe says although the province managed to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities, the death of people on the roads remains a concern.

"One death is one too many, therefore we cannot relax when we see a reduction. This means we have to tighten our belts even more because we can see that we are heading towards a direction where many drivers will be responsible," says Shongwe.

The MEC went on to applaud traffic officers for the successes made with regards to law enforcement. The province saw a high volume of traffic during the Easter weekend and about 23045 vehicles were stopped in different parts of the province on different operations.

During the operations, traffic officers issued 3865 fines to motorists for different violations including among others speeding, driving without proper documentation, driving vehicles with defects and crossing the barrier line.

Moreover, 187 motorists were arrested of which 183 of them were arrested for drunk driving and the four for excessive speeding. 155 and 161 un-roadworthy vehicles were also discontinued and impounded respectively.

Meanwhile, MEC Shongwe welcomes the arrest of two Examiners of driving licenses for allegedly issuing learner licenses and a driving license fraudulently at Emakhazeni Driving Licence Testing Centre. Morris Mabuza was arrested on 07 March 2016 and later, Nompumelelo Skosana was arrested together with Jekabo Ergano Lapisso who is an Ethiopian. They all appeared at Belfast Magistrate Court on 15 March 2015.

Morris Mabuza was granted a bail of R2500 while Nompumelelo Skosana and Jekabo Ergano Lapisso were granted a R3000 bail each. The case has been postponed to 15 April 2016.

The MEC says thorough investigations should be conducted in order to make sure that those arrested are prosecuted.

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