

hlayisekani 2019

News

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Road crashes costly affects service delivery; Ngomane says

MEC Ngomane interacting with one of the immigration officers on the N4 toll road during the launching of the Provincial Road Safety plan. Alongside the MEC is Mpumalanga SAPS Provincial Commissioner Lt. Gen. Mondli Zuma and provincial SAPS spokesperson Brig. Leonard Hlathi. During the recent Easter Holidays road fatalities were reduced as compared to the same period in 2018.

Editorial

We welcome you to the edition of the quarterly newsletter that comes just after the country's general elections which ushered in the sixth administration. We are happy that once more the elections in the province were peaceful and no major incidences were reported.

What was worrisome was many service delivery protests and road blockages that preceded the elections in many parts of the country and even in our province.

The police have responded to all of them. Some of the protests turned violent and resulted in the destruction of private and public property, violence and intimidation of members of our communities.

While the department continues to engage communities about their rights, we believe that public representatives at local level particularly councilors, should also engage communities on a regular basis about service delivery issues. We are of the view that if communities are well informed they will not engage in protests.

We are also aware that there are individuals who take advantage of genuine community concerns in order to push their narrow, selfish and criminal intents. We are therefore calling on communities to expose such individuals so that they get arrested and face the full might of the law.

The other trend that is of concern is incidences of vigilantism in the province. While communities are called upon to work with government in preventing

and solving crime, communities should not take the law into their own hands.

We understand that being the victim or survivor of crime is a harrowing experience that often leave people helpless and deeply pained, but the taking of law into one's hands is also criminal. We are therefore encouraging people to work with the police to prevent and solve crime.

We should work together in bringing down crime by reporting suspects of crime and not hide them in our homes. We must also give tips to the police anonymously so that police are able to investigate such tips. Government alone will not win the war on crime that is why we need active citizenry in order to enhance safety and security in our communities.

Communities should also report any police officers who drag their feet in attending to crime complaints. There are many hardworking police officers and we should not allow the few corrupt police officers to tarnish the image of the hard working law enforcement officers.



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Traffic cop killer sent to prison



The late Bongani Nkumba.

Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Pat Ngomane has welcomed the sentencing of a man who shot and killed a traffic officer of the department in 2016.

Ngomane says that although the case took more than two years to be finalised, the outcome will send a strong message to all those who intimidate law enforcers that they will not be tolerated.

The MEC also applauded the police for the work done and all the witnesses who came forward and testified saying that their actions have ensured justice was served.

He also added that those who attack the law enforcers are attacking the state and they should be adequately punished hence he fully welcomed this development. This

comes after the sentencing of Alexander Mohoebi, a Lesotho National who shot and killed Bongani Nkumba in August 2016.

Nkumba was at the time employed as a traffic officer in the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison based in Standerton Cost Centre.

He was performing his duties at the Meyerville on Vrede road when the incident happened. Nkumba observed a black Jeep which stopped on a non-stopping area and approached the driver and requested him to produce his driving licence.

He then informed the driver that he is going to issue summonses and thereafter take his blood sample to determine his bold alcohol levels.

While Nkumba was attempting to issue the suspect with summonses for the offence at hand, the suspect requested to collect his mobile phone in the vehicle he was driving.

Eyewitnesses said that they then heard several gunshots and they saw Mohoebi running back to his vehicle and drove away at a high speed.

The police were summoned and they pursued Mohoebi who was later arrested along with two of his passengers at Maseru Border Post which links South Africa and Lesotho.

The suspects appeared before court several times and the other two suspects were acquitted. He was charged with murder, robbery with aggravated circumstances, possession of illegal firearm and possession of ammunition which he pleaded guilty to.

He was sentenced with one life imprisonment for the murder and one life sentence for robbery as well as two years and one year for possession of illegal firearm and ammunition respectively by Judge Brian Mashile in the Pretoria High Court sitting in Delmas. The sentences will run concurrently.

Meanwhile, Kitty Nkumba who is a sister to the deceased said that they are happy as a family with the judgement but it is unfortunate that the deceased's mother did not live long enough to see justice being served for the murder of her son.

"We are happy that the law has finally taken its course. We are glad also that finally, we are closing this page although it won't bring back our loved ones. We also appreciate the support from the department and the community since the tragedy," she said.

By: Zandile Mandlazi.

AARTO bill ready to be signed by President



Traffic Officers on duty during one of the roadblocks during the Easter holidays.



Minister Blade Nzimande at work.

The Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act (AARTO) Amendment Bill has been passed by Parliament and is now ready to be signed into law by the President.

“Through the AARTO Amendment Bill, we will be introducing the Points Demerit System. This system will allow us to identify, rehabilitate and ultimately eliminate habitual offenders found on our road transport network,” Transport Minister Blade Nzimande said.

Addressing the official launch of the 2019 Easter Road Safety Campaign recently, the Minister said the rollout of the AARTO service outlets at selected driving licence testing centres in Gauteng has started.

“These service outlets will contribute towards eliminating ‘runners’, who wait outside the registering authority / issuing authority or licensing department, where they trick road users by claiming that they have connections inside and can help to resolve traffic fines quickly in return for payment.

“We will continue to roll out these centres countrywide. This means that all road users will be accountable for any deviant and reckless actions perpetuated on our roads,” Nzimande said.

The Minister launched the campaign at a media and stakeholder breakfast at the Golden Horse Hotel in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal. The Easter campaign is aimed at increasing driver awareness and reducing road accidents during and post the Easter period.

The focus of this year’s campaign is on the impact of alcohol on road users’ behavior and its contribution to road carnages.

The Minister has appealed to motorists and law enforcement officers that they must avoid all forms of temptations that might lead them to be collaborators of crime. “I warn you that we will arrest everyone involved in crime without fear or favour,” he said.

Nzimande said government continues to take firm and urgent measures to deal with fraud and corruption within the traffic law enforcement personnel.

“Working together with the National Anti-Corruption Unit and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations, we continue to arrest traffic officers who instead of issuing fines for traffic violations, they demand gratification or bribes from motorists.

“We will continue to crackdown corruption and the fraudulent issuing of driving licenses and roadworthy certificates. Our anti-corruption units will be keeping a close watch on traffic officers who will be deployed on our roads during this Easter period,” the Minister said.

Members of the public have been encouraged to report bribery and corruption on 0861400800 or at ntacu@rtmc.co.za.

During the launch, the Department of Transport showcased the Evidentiary Breathalyser Alcohol Testing (EBAT). “The use of technology, will greatly enhance our ability and success in implementing the National Road Safety Strategy and plans.

As part of ensuring that drunk drivers are brought to book, registered nursing sisters will also form part of road blocks targeting drunk drivers.

“This will ensure that no driver will evade being arrested for drinking and driving,” the Minister said.

By: Moeti Mmusi.

Road crashes costly, affects service delivery; Ngomane says



Some of the horrific scenes that are costly to the economy of the country.

Mpumalanga Community Safety Security and Liaison MEC Pat Ngomane says the country spend almost R160 billion every year to deal with road crashes.

Ngomane was speaking during the Prayer for safer roads and communities that was held in Matsulu recently.

The MEC explained that if the current crash statistics are reduced by at least half, about R80 billion could be used for service delivery programmes such as building houses, clinics, schools and other developmental needs.

He added that this could even be used to stimulate the economy and create more jobs especially for young people. "We must therefore all participate in reducing these crashes. It is not only the responsibility of government alone," Ngomane said.

The MEC also appealed to all community members to partner with government in halving the road crashes so that money is saved for developmental needs of the country. He has encouraged communities to work with police and report crime. He said the police alone cannot be in every household



Pastors from different churches pray at one of the scenes where many lives were lost in crashes.

and community centred policing was the best weapon against criminality. Ngomane also blamed young people and male drivers mostly under 40 years saying they contribute to most crashes that occurs mostly on weekends. On the other hand, Solomon Shongwe chairperson for Ehlanzeni Small

Bus Operators Association says public transport owners will support government in its road safety initiatives.

Shongwe says accidents pains them because they bring hardships and misery to many families. He called on government to reduce speed on N4 toll road stretch near Matsulu saying this will reduce the number of crashes on that part of the road.

He said: "Construction of speed humps on N4 toll road near Matsulu entrance will compel drivers to reduce speed. He also blamed overloading by some minibusses headed to Mozambique as one of the reasons for collision on the road.

Moral Regeneration Movement's Rev. Micah Nthali said morality among people is key towards ending crime and road crashes.

He encouraged parents to raise their children in a morally sound way so that they grow up to respect other people even on the road.

By: Zandile Mandlazi.



PERFECT PICTURES

Easter Arrive Alive Roadblock



Junior Traffic Training Centre (JTTC) Launch.



Mpumalanga Traffic Training College certificates Handover.





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Government jobs not for sale, MEC Ngomane warns fraudsters



An applicant filling up the Z83 form for job application in government.

ments should be immediately reported to the police so that they are harshly dealt with.

“Such people should be arrested because they play on the vulnerabilities of our people for their own selfish ends. Government jobs, internships and learnerships were never for sale. Our people should not be made by anyone to pay for jobs as long as they meet the requirements, they should freely apply,” said the MEC.

He went on to say that the source of this misinformation should be fully investigated and those who are responsible must face the music. He has further appealed to job seekers to always verify the authenticity of job advertisements that are sometimes placed in the social media with relevant departments and entities.

*By: Moeti Mmusi.
Picture: Zandile Mandlazi.*

Mpumalanga Community Safety Security and Liaison MEC Pat Ngomane has warned fraudsters to stop preying on vulnerable job seekers by making them pay for jobs that do not exist or were not advertised.

MEC Ngomane was responding to wrong information spread by unscrupulous individuals that the department as well as Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) have advertised traffic learnership posts.

On the other hand, the department advertised Tourism Safety Monitor posts in the media recently. Some opportunistic were reportedly asking money from young people promising them that they will assist them to get TSM contracts from the department.

The MEC has reiterated his call to members of the public to disregard such people and not give them any money. He added that such rogue ele-



Communities should not buy jobs.

Two JTTC structures for schools in Mhluzi



Learners of Mvuzo Primary School demonstrate how the JTTC structure operates.

Mpumalanga Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison with the help of Anglo American's Goedehoop Colliery has recently handed over two Junior Traffic Training Centres (JTTCs) in Mhluzi.

The structures were built by Anglo American's Goedehoop Colliery as part of contributing to the province's goal to have a safe and road crashes free environment.

The two JTTC's were built at Mvuzo and Zikhuphule primary schools in Mhluzi in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

The department with the help of schools and other donors have manage to build 60 JTTC's in the province in different primary schools. To further reach learners who do not have structures in their schools, the department

uses mobile JTTCs. These structures are built for learners in pre-schools and primary schools aged between 5 and 15 years to give them an opportunity to combine their theory on road safety and their motor skills while handling a vehicle.

The basic layout at the centres conforms to the requirement of the National Road Safety Council and Mpumalanga Provincial Road Safety manual for practical training on the junior traffic training centres.

JTTC programme consist of theory part where learners are given presentations on the usage of the road signs and markings and the practical part where they demonstrate what they have learned in class.

The structures have streets, sidewalks, parking areas, road traffic signs and markings. The structures represent a

real road situation with road markings and signs.

Road Safety Education Acting Senior Manager Dumisani Magagula says that the department's goal is to reach at least 60 percent of the primary schools in the province adding that they will be prioritizing Bohlabela District because the district has only one JTTC facility.

"In Bushbuckridge there is no JTTC structure and the department is currently engaging the private sector to assist with funding for the JTTC structure in the area or donate mobile structures." he said.

During the handover in Mhluzi, Anglo American's Goedehoop Colliery Human Resource Manager Michael Dugmore said that safety is their number one priority that is why they have spent millions in communities for education which includes road safety education.

"We are pleased that we are contributing to road safety. We believe that these structures will be the beginning to an improved society with less or no crashes at all," he said.

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Councillor Jonas Mashiane, said that as much as government was trying to curb road crashes, parents also had a responsibility of ensuring that their children are transported safely to schools.

Meanwhile, SANTACO President Phillip Taaibosch said that they fully support government on all road safety programmes.

He said that the taxi industry has taken the responsibility to say 'it is not government only who has to play the role in road safety' that is why they have introduced the programme Hlokomela.

By: Zandile Mandlazi.

Let us protect our children, they don't deserve to die young- MEC Ngomane



We should all play a role in protecting children.

Children are the future generation, and it is the role of each and every one to ensure that this future is protected. This is according to Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Pat Ngomane who is reacting to a number of incidences where young children were killed and some kidnapped in the province recently.

The most recent incident took place in Mganduzweni where two young girls aged six and seven disappeared and were later found dead and their bodies thrown in a ditch in the area.

Two men who are believed to be linked to the crime were torched to death by angry communities. It is alleged that the community members were told by a certain *sangoma* that the men were responsible for the death of the girls.

There have also been a number of cases of children who were kidnapped in the province. In some instances, traditional healers are linked

to the crimes. MEC Ngomane says that those who commit these crimes deserve harsh punishments and life-time jail sentences.

The MEC says that traditional healers must not use their calling to contribute towards perpetuating



Children should live in a happy environment.

crime and they must also not help criminals escape from being punished.

“Police must arrest all those who hide behind healing while they want to kill innocent people to commit their dreadful deeds. These evil doers tarnish the name of good traditional healers; those who do well must expose all those who are evil,” says the MEC.

The MEC further announced parents and guardians to be vigilant and always know the whereabouts of their children.

He adds that communities should form a protective front against harassment and intimidation against children. He calls on the Justice system to ensure that such evil doers are convicted to demonstrate government and the society's intolerance towards violation of the rights of children.

The department has a programme on school safety where awareness is raised and learners are cautioned not to become victims of kidnapping. During the Child Protection Week, the department also target pre-school and grade R learners to educate them about their safety.

Nkangala Regional Manager in Promotion of Safety, Mr William Msiza says that one of the reasons learners become victims of kidnapping is hitchhiking and talking to strangers. He says that they have many times warned learners not to hitchhike or walk alone in isolated and bushy areas.

“Parents must also not allow their children to walk alone long distances in isolated areas because that is where they become targeted by these evildoers,” says Msiza.

By: Zandile Mandlazi.

MTTC enrolls over 154 new traffic learner cops for 2019



HOD William Mthombothi and Law Enforcement Deputy Director Mr. John Mokgosi handing over a trophy to overall best performer Mr. Sizwe Ngobeni.

ceremonies in 2017 and 2018 with over 300 young people becoming qualified as traffic officers.

The MEC says these students are expected to contribute towards reducing road carnage in the country once they complete the training programme. Ngo-mane added that the enrolment of traffic learner cops does not only afford government and municipalities an opportunity to beef up law enforcement in their areas but it also contributes towards reducing unemployment among young people.

He has encouraged them to be disciplined and grab the opportunity presented to them amid high levels of unemployment in the country. The MEC has expressed gratitude to institutions that have continued to support MTTC since its inception saying that their support to the college will contribute greatly to reducing fatalities and effective traffic law enforcement on South African roads.

By: Justice Nyalunga.

Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC, Pat Ngomane has welcomed new traffic learner cops who have been enrolled by the Mpumalanga Traffic Training College (MTTC) in Mkhuhlu for 2019 academic year. The students commenced with training last month (March 2019). The learners are enrolled on a 12 months NQF level 4 basic traffic officers' training.

The new 154 learner cops were received by the MTTC head, Ms. Busi Nkuna during their official welcoming function that was held at the college in March. North West Province has sent 100 learners. The province has enrolled learners at the college over the last two years.

For the first time the Eastern Cape province has sent 28 students. Ulundi Municipality in Kwazulu-Natal contributed with one student to train as a traffic officer. Meanwhile, Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete local municipalities are training 20 and four future traffic officers each respectively. Thembisile Hani Local Municipality has only sent one learner. The college has so far had two pass out



Carol Shirindzi receiving her certificate from HOD William Mthombothi and Law Enforcement Deputy Director John Mokgosi.

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VISION

"A safe, secure, crime and road accident free Mpumalanga Province"

MISSION STATEMENT

To improve community and road traffic safety through mass mobilization, oversee the performance of the police and provision of security services.

VALUES

The department strives to pursue excellence and professionalism through the following:

- ≠ Inclusiveness
- ≠ Accountability and Transparency
- ≠ Diligent Responsive and Approachable
- ≠ Integrity and Honesty
- ≠ Fair and Reasonable

SERVICE STANDARDS

- We will consult all our clients about the level and quality of services they will receive;
- We will provide assistance and information in the language of your choice;
- We will respond to all complaints received within 14 working days and we will refer all complaints that falls outside the Department to the relevant Department within 7 working days and you will be informed accordingly of such referral;
- We will provide citizens with 8 hours of service each business day and our hours of work will be posted in each office or delivery site;
- We will respond to media enquiries within three hours;
- We will ensure that our help desk offers fast and friendly service and that our clients do not wait more than five minutes without being attended to;
- We will pay all our creditors within 30 days of receipt of an original invoice;
- We will, confidentially and without delay, attend to problems and concerns of clients within 14 days and we will immediately investigate transgressions brought to our attention;
- We will provide all our services promptly and in an economical, efficient and effective manner in order to give you the best possible value for money.

Report domestic violence on the following number:

086 001 0111



"Together Let's Fight Crime and Road Carnage"