

MEC SPEAKS |

Official Newsletter of the MEC of Transport, Safety & Liaison
VOL; JANUARY 2017



MEC PAULINE WILLIAMS

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

This New Year needs us all. All our hopes, all our good wishes, all our smiles and all our gestures of forgiveness. - Maya Angelou

The beginning of each year is always a hopeful time. We know our challenges and sometimes they are great. However, there is something about the New Year that make us believe we have the courage and determination to rise and meet them.

I wish that we all go into this year with an open heart, a strong spirit and an unwavering commitment to do good.

Our Safer Festive Season Campaign was successfully launched in De Aar and had an array of Law Enforcement Agencies and partners working together to keep our roads and communities safe. It was followed by the Safer Festive Season Road Safety Campaign that was launched in Kuruman.

Every year during the festive season the Northern Cape experiences an influx of holiday makers. This is, sadly, also a time that opportunistic criminals use to loot and plunder. As alcohol and drug use increase, it also leads to higher occurrences of domestic violence rendering, what should have been a time of peace, a time of hurt and pain.

CONTENTS

- MEC'S NEW YEARS MESSAGE
- MEC VISITS SCHOOLS IN NAMAKWALAND & POSTMASBURG
- MEC LAUNCHES SAFER FESTIVE SEASON OPERATIONS
- MEC LAUNCHES FESTIVE SEASON ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN
- 2016/2017 FESTIVE SEASON ROAD SAFETY - FULL REPORT
- NATIONAL POLICE DAY/ AWARDS



MEC NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE...

On our roads, drinking and driving leads to irresponsible behaviours and road fatalities that could have, otherwise, been avoided.

Our men and women in blue took to the streets yet again, to run towards danger so we may be safe. Raids were done, road blocks erected, cars were searched and criminals on the roads and in our neighbourhoods were arrested.

There are no words to explain the gratitude I feel towards our Police and Traffic officers who sacrificed time away from their families so that there is law and order in our province. Your commitment is exemplary, your dedication inspiring and your selflessness humbling. We thank your families for allowing us to have you for this time and hope they will be proud you, as we are, for the valuable work you have done.

As part of the Northern Cape Government's drive to ensure our schools are in a state of readiness for the new year, I have also had the great pleasure and honour to visit schools in Namaqualand and Postmasburg.

While we experience several challenges at our schools, it is always heart-warming to witness the enthusiasm of learners at schools, listening to their hopes and dreams and engaging with them on a personal level. Learners committed themselves to try their best in doing well, while teachers and parents pledged to work together to provide a local education environment of support, integrity and teamwork.

Being part of a government that cares for its children and their collective futures is rewarding beyond measure.

Our 2016 ended with the tragic passing of two of our colleagues, Pelonomi Moemedi and Ontiretse (Audrey) Lekgetho and Petronella 'Lotte' van Staden.

We will remember their hard work and the special place they had in the family of the Department. It is always painful and never easy to lose a colleague and friend. We pray that they have found rest and that their families find peace.

Our Acting HOD, Mr Lesego Wolfe, also lost his mother so early in the year. While it was a time for new beginnings for most of us, for him and his family it meant the end of a lifetime of love and care from a mother no longer there. Our thoughts and prayers are also

with him and his family to make it through this tough time.

To all the officials of the Department of Transport, Safety & Liaison I wish a prosperous new year and would like to also elicit a pledge to work hard and tirelessly to ensure we fulfil our departmental mandate. Our team has such an important job to do, so much more to do and thus we may not, for one second, become complacent.

To all our partners and stakeholders, please receive our sincerest gratitude for your steadfast support. We value your contribution and that we, too, in return, may continue to provide an important contribution to the reaching of your goals.

I want to end my message by making a call to our communities to step forward and take part in our programmes in a structured and meaningful way.

The law, whether on the roads or in our neighbourhoods, are there to safeguard us all by providing a structured framework within which outcomes of safety and security may be reached and strengthened. It is within this framework that we must find each other.

If not, our hands will never properly hold on to each other and will so create gaps through which the evildoers escape the justice they are due.

God bless

MEC Pauline Williams



MEC VISITS SCHOOLS

MEC Pauline Williams had the opportunity to visit several schools as part of the Northern Cape Government's drive to ensure and monitor their readiness for the New School Year to begin.

Schools that were visited in Namakwa included Marais Gedenk Primêr in Hondeklipbaai, FJ Smit Gekombineerde Skool in Komaggas and the Kleinzee Centre for Learning & Development.

MEC also visited Ratang Thuto High School and Blinkklip Hoërskool in Postmasburg.

The visits highlighted some of the challenges experienced by schools, resource and other needs as well as focusing on some of their victories.

School visits were attended by Teachers, parents, Members of the School Governing Bodies and Municipal Councillors.

Information gathered during the visits will be handed over to the Department of Education to consolidate interventions aimed at securing school readiness going forward.

Advancing People's Power through Education!



MEC LAUNCHES SAFER FESTIVE SEASON CAMPAIGN: DE AAR

The MEC of Transport, Safety & Liaison welcomes the launch of the Northern Cape Festive Season Operation 2016, that was held at Nonzwakazi stadium in De Aar on 15 November 2016.

This event is to set off several operations from different law enforcement agencies and government departments in a coordinated manner, to address the phenomenon of escalating crime over the festive season. This element of cooperation is key to secure tighter control over criminal behaviour in our communities during Christmas. The other important element is community participation. Premier Sylvia Lucas indicated that criminals are not strangers to us. They are our brothers and sisters, our neighbours, family and friends.

This is to highlight the importance of coming forward with releasing information about criminal activity as this is an important way to ensure the police has direct information to work with.

The other important consideration is the role that alcohol and drugs play in raising crime levels. Here we are not only referring to thefts and housebreaks, but also the high numbers of road deaths as a result of driving under the influence of alcohol.

During the ceremony SAPS had a demonstration of their readiness, complete with helicopters, smoke grenades and the K-9 unit, while also reading to the Public their Code of Conduct. This was just another indication of their commitment towards effective policing, with Lt Gen Shivuri saying: 'MEC, we are ready!'

To improve police visibility, 15 bicycles were introduced to ensure more officers are activated in the streets in the area.

The Ministry of Transport, Safety & Liaison is confident that efforts of the South African Police Services will go a long way in creating safer communities in the Northern Cape. Besides working together as government, however, we need to ensure that individuals and communities are attentive, alert and comes forward with any information that may result in the swift arrest of criminals who use the festive season as a ripe playground for their criminal behaviour.



DISTRICT OFFICES

CONTACT DETAILS

FRANCES BAARD

T: (053) 830 4900

F: (053) 830 4914

PXLEY KA SEME

T: (053) 631 3915

F: (053) 631 0825

NAMAKWA

T: 027 718 2695

F: 027 718 2694

ZF MQCAWU

T: (054) 338 5697/8

F: (054) 338 5696

JT GAETSEWE

T: (053) 712 8200

F: (053) 712 2800

Speeding
is NOT cool

#Ridewise
It's cool to be safe.



MEC LAUNCHES ROAD SAFETY PLAN: KURUMAN

On 12 December 2016, the MEC of Transport, Safety & Liaison, Ms Pauline Williams launched the Northern Cape Safer Festive Season Road Safety Plan on the N14 between Kuruman & Vryburg. The location of the launch is significant as it is hazardous due to the high number of fatal accidents as well as incidents where pedestrians have been injured or killed.

The Road Safety Plan for the Festive Season has as objective to reduce the fatalities on the Provincial & National roads. The idea is also to change the behavior of pedestrians when crossing these roads. We are raising awareness amongst community members on road use to prevent children and members of the community falling victim to accidents that could have otherwise been prevented.

The N14 passes between several deep rural villages with businesses alongside it. It is not only vehicles but also pedestrians and stray animals that are involved in accidents.

MEC Williams is of the view that the Department of Transport, Safety & Liaison should continue to strengthening its campaign machinery to ensure that we significantly reduce road fatalities with 50% by the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety in 2020. "We will take necessary actions to ensure that we reduce our road fatalities by the end of 2016. Most importantly we will stress that we shall have zero tolerance with people who break the law."

Some of the specific interventions the Department will use to improve on law enforcement is to better its enforcement strategies and policies and upscale public safety campaigns.

During the launch MEC engaged drivers and passengers alike on staying safe on the roads over the festive season. She asked drivers to be alert, not to drink or text and drive and to buckle up. The main causes of road fatalities are drunken driving, excessive speeding, overloading, dangerous overtaking, not using seatbelts and unroadworthy vehicles. She asked drivers to comply with road safety laws and to, at all times, drive to be aware of pedestrians. They must also be patient with road operations and traffic officers who are just doing their job.

MEC Williams also had an opportunity to talk with Police and Traffic Officials, who will, over the Festive Season, work hard to keep our roads safe. She asked officers to do their job with honesty and integrity and motivated them to stay strong and keep doing the right thing.

Law Enforcement officers will, together with the Department of Home Affairs, Social Development, SASSA and other partners, form a multi-disciplinary team ensuring we arrive safely at our holiday destinations. Through roadblocks and stop and searches we will also ensure that we catch criminals who use the festive season for their opportunistic schemes.





MEC MEDIA BRIEFING: FESTIVE SEASON 2016/2017 REPORT

Yet another year has drawn to a close. The festive Season with its celebrations as well as challenges has ended and things are starting to go back to normal. People are still returning home and starting work from the Christmas break. Children are going back to school and getting up early becomes a harsh fact again.

It is my sincerest wish that your Christmas time has been one of love and peace. Once we are faced with death and hurt, we start to understand the importance of being there for each other, the value of family and how we need to take care of one another and my further wish is for a prosperous 2017 for all of you.

As you are all aware our New Year begins every time with so many good intentions and then seem to fade away quickly. This year, let us make greater effort in realising the commitments we make to ourselves, our families and our communities. We can build a good world if we act on these commitments and not just make them.

I welcome you to this occasion of releasing the Northern Cape Road Statistics for the Festive Season 2016/2017. This period normally experiences higher levels of road congestion. Industries and schools are closed, major churches convene mass services, large conferences take place, migrant workers return home and holiday makers find their special spots all over the country to visit friends and family.

Despite the period's spirit of goodwill, many road users tend to misbehave by being impatient and disregarding the rules of the road and this results in road rage and recklessness.

Being impatient on a road is a dangerous thing because we tend to make impulsive and reckless choices. We need to move from being emotional drivers to being responsible drivers.

We do have our law abiding drivers and they, together with passengers and pedestrians, become the victims of irresponsible driving and this is unacceptable. This needs to change. We are concerned at the numbers of drivers killed in accidents during this period. We can pose the question: is the driver a threat to his or her own life? It indicates that we must be stricter when enforcing the law.

During this Festive Season we have witnessed many people who have lost their lives on our roads. Allow me to express our sincerest condolences to the families of all those who lost loved ones over the Festive Season.

Our festive season programme is not implemented in isolation, but forms part of an on-going programme of campaigns that the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison and its agencies carries out. Operations are in conjunction with transport stakeholders and the general public to improve the chances that lives are saved.

Once more, this festive season we have called upon all our citizens to observe and obey the rules of our road.

We have urged motorists and all road users to respect their lives and that of fellow road users.

The Province has also, through National Government, committed itself to the United Nations Declaration for the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011 – 2020).

The Department is mandated by the Constitution of the Country, as per Schedules No's 4 & 5 to deal with Road Traffic matters and related functions, together with other spheres of government, as well as implementing our own programmes.

There are thus major legislative prescripts which give Traffic Officers or Provincial Inspectors and or authorised officers powers to execute the above functions.

In the list of related guidelines, is the National Rolling Enforcement Plan (NREP – a 365 days Plan), a product of the Road Traffic Management Corporation, which seeks to synergise education, engineering and research endeavours with enforcement. This not only improves our responsiveness but also our ability to work smarter and with better results.

Our Provincial and Municipal Traffic authorities are an integral part of this plan, despite the challenges we are all experiencing.

The targets and activities, as set out in this plan, are for the entire Northern Cape Province and not only for the Provincial Traffic Authority, which resides in the Department under the Transport Regulations Directorate.

At this point we need to mention, in the interest of cooperative governance and intergovernmental relations, that there was reasonable Inter-Agency consultation to ensure an implementation plan that draws on the best of all our efforts in fighting lawlessness and bringing offenders to justice. The South African Police Service, Department of Health (EMS), Department of Home Affairs, Nature Conservation, Eastern and Western Cape, North West and Free State Province were all consulted and activated as critical role players.

In terms of Personnel implications, the Department utilised its existing staff compliment (Provincial Inspectors) and was capably assisted by the National Traffic Police, under the auspices of the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), to enforce and capture related data.

To ensure maximum impact, a Consolidated National Framework from RTMC and the Provincial Plan, provided guidance over this period.

Our focus areas included Impaired Driving (Alcohol), Dangerous Driving (Speed), Safer Road Users (Driver & Vehicle fitness, Passengers & Pedestrian Safety):

Over the period we reported 104 arrests for drunken driving. This number is considerably higher than the 48 recorded for the previous year. This is indicative of the intensified operations that resulted in drastically increased number of vehicles that were stopped and checked,

14 Arrests were made for speeding with 176 as the highest speed recorded. Jan Kempdorp (7) and Richmond (6) recorded the bulk of speeding arrests,

In Upington, Kimberley and Richmond, 7 drivers were arrested for fraudulent documentation.

The total Provincial fatalities recorded are at 62. Broken down it comes to 25 drivers, 22 passengers and 15 pedestrians. The highest road fatalities were recorded in Mothibistad on the N14 route, with a total of 16, and Richmond the lowest on 2.

It indicates an increase of 5 against last year's 57. The increase may not seem considerable in terms of the number but it is statistically significant. What is more important is that, in human lives, this increase is too high.

We will be relying on all results of investigations to indicate causes of accidents so we may be prepared to focus on operations that proactively prevent the probability of accidents, which may otherwise have been avoided.

In the announcement of the Preliminary National Statistics, Honourable Minister Dipuo Peters relayed the number of fatalities at 53. We have since benefitted from the final consolidation of statistics from all sources, hence the final count of 62, as previously indicated.

In terms of Operations:

54 Roadblocks were held

22 601 vehicles were stopped and checked

940 summonses were issued for speed, with, as reported, 176 as the highest speed recorded

A total of 83 vehicles were discontinued from usage as they were found un-roadworthy

45 fatal crashes were reported resulting in 62 fatalities. Last year reported 51 fatal crashes.

From the reported fatal crashes, the following are notable:

A mother with her child on her back were knocked down and killed by an oncoming vehicle in Mothibistad area. They both died at the scene of the accident

A further three (3) children were killed in one crash near Carnavorn

One child was killed by a reversing vehicle in the Jan Kempdorp area

Four (4) women died when a bakkie carrying twenty five (25) passengers overturned in the Olifantshoek area

During this festive season 80 traffic officers were deployed on our roads and covered all corners of the Northern Cape.

The Department will continue to implement on-going campaigns to ensure that we significantly reduce road fatalities, as noted, by 50% by the end of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety in 2020.

As we are drawing from analysis and feedback from a range of stakeholders and enforcement agencies we will be in a far better position to smartly deal with Road Traffic fatalities and law enforcement issues. Together with awareness and education campaigns we are continually improving our operational efficiency.

Allow me to sincerely thank all our law enforcement officers who devoted all their time to make our roads safer. Your efforts have not gone by unnoticed. I know you have worked around the clock to serve our people in the Province and have sacrificed precious time with your families.

I salute you and commend you on a job well done, but more needs to be done because one life lost is one too many.

We will continue our Zero Tolerance to crime approach on our roads. Once we have established ourselves as consistent and diligent enforcement agencies and partners, law breakers will think twice before putting their own and the lives of others in danger.

Road Safety is the responsibility of everyone. Let us all be ambassadors in saving lives. Our roads are channels to build our economy, to transport information and goods but also to bring our loved ones home. Let's keep them safe.

Together Let us Save Lives and Advance People's Power

I thank you!!

MEC Pauline Williams

Safer Festive Season: Quick Stats

- ⇒ 54 Roadblocks were held
- ⇒ 22 601 vehicles were stopped and checked
- ⇒ 940 summonses were issued for speed
- ⇒ 176 km/ph the highest speed recorded
- ⇒ 83 vehicles were discontinued as they were found unroadworthy
- ⇒ 45 fatal crashes reported
- ⇒ 62 Fatalities



Transport, Safety and Liaison

**Department:
Transport, Safety and Liaison
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

C/O LENNOX & SYDNEY STREET
KIMBERLEY
8300

053 839 1707 (T)
053 832 4249 (F)

4th National Excellence Awards 2017

- Sun City Superbowl



NATIONAL POLICE DAY 2017

