

PRESS RELEASE

To : All News Editors
Issued : 26 November 2018
Attention : News Reporters / Transport Reporters / Newswires



**THE ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (RTMC) WELCOMES THE
DECISION TO CHARGE OFFICERS IN VIRAL IDABALA VIDEO**

GAUTENG-: The RTMC welcomes a decision by the Johannesburg Emergency Medical Services to institute disciplinary action against officers who recorded themselves doing the famous Idibala dance while driving.

In the video that went viral last month, the two officers are seen dancing in full uniform and not wearing their safety belts.

The officers were given a warning following a disciplinary hearing conducted by the Johannesburg Emergency Medical Services.

The RTMC welcomes this decision as the actions of the officers fell below conduct expected of people who work with medical emergencies. Emergency medical personnel routinely respond to road crashes and should, therefore, understand the danger of distracted driving and failure to use safety belts.

Section 26, paragraph 3(h) of Emergency Medical Services Regulation of 2017 require emergency medical services to "promote safe driving techniques, as well as awareness of defensive driving techniques".

Board of Directors: Mr Z Majavu CD(SA) (Chairman), Ms P Manqele, Ms T Mdlulwa, Ms D Ewertse, Mr T Kgomo,
Prof. M Mphahlele, Ms T Thankge, Dr E Thebe, Mr J Motsatsing*

Chief Executive Officer: Advocate MS Msibi

Company Secretary: Ms S Petse

*Departmental Representative

The regulations expressly forbid behaviour “that may reasonably be considered to be bringing the industry into disrepute”.

We hope that this sanction will send a strong message to all other public officials to desist from behaviour that compromises safety while driving official state vehicles.

The public expects officials who represent the state to behave in a manner that is professional and promotes respect for the rules of the road.

The conduct displayed by the two officers inconsistent with behaviour that has become known as distracted driving. This includes texting and taking selfies while driving which are among the major contributing factors to crashes on South African roads.

ENDS

ISSUED BY: THE ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (RTMC)

Contact person: Simon Zwane: Spokesperson (082) 551-9892

Board of Directors: Mr Z Majavu CD(SA) (Chairman), Ms P Manqele, Ms T Mdlulwa, Ms D Ewertse, Mr T Kgomo,
Prof. M Mphahlele, Ms T Thankge, Dr E Thebe, Mr J Motsatsing*

Chief Executive Officer: Advocate MS Msibi

Company Secretary: Ms S Petse

*Departmental Representative