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The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC)  
is an Agency of The Department of Transport and a  
Member of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**To : All News Editors**  
**Issued : 26 January 2022**  
**Attention : News Reporters / Transport Reporters / Newswires**

### **VOLKSWAGEN POLO DRIVERS ARE THE WORST, A STUDY CONFIRMS**

**Gauteng:** Volkswagen Polo, Toyota Hilux and Toyota Quantum are the vehicle models mostly involved in fatal crashes in South Africa and account for the highest number speed infringement fines issued, a study conducted by the Road Traffic Management Corporation has revealed.

A baseline study – titled *South African Fatal Crashes in Context* - which was published last month analysed fatal crash data from 1 October 2017 to 30 June 2021 a period of 3.8 years. It also analysed Aarto speed infringement data from 1 January 2019 to 20 June 2021, a period of 2.5 years.

A total of 48 330 vehicles were involved in 37 583 fatal crashes with 45 232 deaths during the period according to data on the Road Traffic Management Corporation's national crash data management system.

An analysis of the top 20 vehicle models involved in fatal crashes showed that the Volkswagen Polo, Toyota Hilux and Toyota Quantum were involved in 43.2% of fatal crashes.

**Board of Directors:** Mr Z Majavu CD(SA) (Chairman), Ms T Mdlulwa, Mr T Kgomo, Prof. M Mphahlele, Ms T Thankge, Dr E Thebe, Adv. J Makgatho\*  
**Chief Executive Officer:** Advocate MS Msibi  
**Company Secretary:** Ms S Petse  
\*Departmental Representative



The Volkswagen Polo came out on top, with a contribution of 16.7% of all fatal crashes, confirming what many South Africans have long suspected. It was followed closely by the Toyota Hilux which was involved in 14.2% of fatal crashes and the Toyota Quantum with a recorded 12.2% involvement in fatal crashes.

These three vehicle models also accounted for the highest number of Aarto speed infringement fines issued by the Johannesburg Metro Police Department, Tshwane Metro Police Department, the Gauteng Department of Community Safety, and the National Traffic Police.

A total of 35% of speed infringement fines were issued to these three vehicle models in the period under review even though they constituted 33% of the total vehicle population.

The high number of speed infringements committed by public transport type of vehicles such as the Toyota Quantum is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Although it is expected that public transport vehicles will be involved in crashes because they are on the road on a semi-full-time basis and travel more million vehicle kilometres compared to other vehicle models, their contribution to fatalities remains unacceptably high considering that they constitute a mere 3.3% of the total vehicle population.

Here is the top 20 list of vehicle make and model with the highest contribution to fatal crashes and speed infringements and their representation in the total vehicle population.

% Self-propelled Vehicles, Fatal Crashes and AARTO Speed Infringements per Vehicle MAKE & MODEL

#	Vehicle MAKE & MODEL	VehPop	% Of Total	Fatal Crashes	% Of Total	AARTO SI	% Of Total
	Total:	11 546 383		32 333		32 333	
	% Of Total:	40,4%		49,3%		41,9%	
	Subtotal:	4 668 098		15 952		5 071 360	
1	VOLKSWAGEN   POLO	795 613	17,0%	2 668	16,7%	1 091 912	21,5%
2	TOYOTA   HILUX	592 021	12,7%	2 272	14,2%	372 843	7,4%
3	TOYOTA   QUANTUM	152 742	3,3%	1 954	12,2%	310 706	6,1%
4	TOYOTA   COROLLA	522 757	11,2%	1 435	9,0%	522 583	10,3%
5	ISUZU   KB SERIES	265 655	5,7%	1 048	6,6%	124 701	2,5%
6	VOLKSWAGEN   GOLF	316 573	6,8%	1 032	6,5%	267 277	5,3%
7	FORD   RANGER	302 176	6,5%	848	5,3%	377 737	7,4%
8	BMW   3 SERIES	202 695	4,3%	524	3,3%	381 412	7,5%
9	TOYOTA   HIACE	70 847	1,5%	464	2,9%	91 906	1,8%
10	NISSAN   NP200	164 378	3,5%	425	2,7%	228 958	4,5%
11	TOYOTA   AVANZA	63 798	1,4%	396	2,5%	44 767	0,9%
12	TOYOTA   ETIOS	112 159	2,4%	367	2,3%	179 113	3,5%
13	NISSAN   HARDBODY	111 468	2,4%	366	2,3%	37 644	0,7%
14	OPEL   CORSA	243 973	5,2%	361	2,3%	130 227	2,6%
15	MERCEDES-BENZ   W2 SERIES	187 503	4,0%	319	2,0%	298 578	5,9%
16	TOYOTA   YARIS	140 717	3,0%	311	1,9%	148 647	2,9%
17	TOYOTA   FORTUNER	134 872	2,9%	307	1,9%	174 206	3,4%
18	TOYOTA   CONQUEST	89 979	1,9%	301	1,9%	22 782	0,4%
19	NISSAN   NP300	68 933	1,5%	280	1,8%	69 300	1,4%
20	FORD   FIESTA	129 239	2,8%	274	1,7%	196 061	3,9%

The study also found that Volkswagen Polo and Toyota Quantum vehicles aged between 5-10 years were involved in most fatal crashes when ranked by the grouping of vehicle make, model and age.

The report will inform further research that will provide input towards reducing death and injuries because of road crashes

The full report is available on the RTMC website [www.rtmc.co.za](http://www.rtmc.co.za)

**ENDS**

**ISSUED BY: THE ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (RTMC)**

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