



**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT MME DIPUO PETERS ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE 2015 EASTER ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN HELD IN MPUMALANGA - BUSHBUCKRIDGE**

Programme Director – MEC Vusi Shongwe;

MECs of Transport and Roads - MEC Nhlengethwa,

The Director General of Transport – Mr Godfrey Selepe;

Executive Mayor of the Bushbuckridge Municipality – Cllr R Khumalo;

MMC – Cllr E Selowe;

DDG of Roads – Mr Hlabisa;

CEO of RTMC – Mr Makhosini Msibi;

CEO of RAF – Mr Eugene Watson;

Chairperson of BUSCO – Ms Nora Fakude;

HOD present

All dignitaries from SANTACO, SABOA, RTIA and C-BRTA;

Officials from all spheres of government,

Guests,

Performing artists,

Members of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Easter Weekend is upon us and oncemore South Africans in their multitudes will embark on various destinations to religious pilgrimages, holidays and will conduct their routine business activities.

As a result, the period is amongst the leading and the most intricate five-day period in the South African road traffic management calendar.

The department of transport together with the Road Traffic Safety fraternity, and the different transport agencies, namely; Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), South African National Road Agency Limited (SANRAL), Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA), Road Accident Fund (RAF), Cross Border Road Traffic Agency (C-BRTA) and other state departments such as South African Police Services (SAPS), Health and Home Affairs. We are also engaging the Interfaith Religious Community, Road Safety Councils, Institute of Traffic and Municipal Officers, Institute of the Licensing Officers, and we will once again go out to protect and serve the people of South Africa during this easter week - **MAKING OUR ROADS SAFE.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year is not an exception from the previous years, and the road traffic fraternity is again in full swing to serve the South African Public and protect all road users especially commuters as a focal point.

Since December last year, we have been constantly monitoring the situation on our roads and working tirelessly to save lives. We have seen efforts being made at all fronts, by our agencies, transport stakeholders, other law enforcement agencies and the general public to reduce the

carnage on our roads. Addressing this problem can only be a collective effort.

The Road Safety Advisory Council has been established and will be officially launched this year. The Council will advise on interventions to help us further reduce carnages on our roads, and also encourage all stakeholders including the general public, to join us in our endeavours.

We are however approaching Easter with mixed feelings as some of our fellow South Africans are mourning the passing of their loved ones due to irresponsible behaviour on our roads. Amongst the people we lost on our roads includes the Minister of Public Service and Administration, Minister Collins Chabane, and his two protectors, Lieutenant Lentsoane and Lieutenant Sekele. The numbers includes distinguished South Africans from all walks of life who in most instance are breadwinners.

I therefore express my sincere condolences on behalf of the Ministry and the Department of Transport to all those who lost their loved ones due to reckless behaviour on our roads. May their souls rest in peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This state of affairs on our roads is unacceptable and it must be confronted with the seriousness it deserves. As South Africans, we need to change our attitudes on our roads and be alive to the fact that our roads are a national asset which is regulated by the laws and must be respected and observed by all.

Since I was appointed as the Minister of Transport of South Africa, I called upon all South Africans, both motorists and pedestrians, to ensure

that they respect the rules of our roads. As the ANC-led government we are committed to reduce carnages on our roads as our people are dying daily on our roads - roads which suppose to liberate them from the shackles of poverty and under-development. Whilst we acknowledge the progress we are making, one death is just one too many.

This year marks the mid-term in our implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action for road safety. We owe it to our country and the continent to achieve the Decade of Action's goal of reducing road fatalities by half by year 2020.

We have committed ourselves to achieving this by implementing a 3-6-5 day programme focussing on road safety and the 4 E's, being Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Evaluation. The Easter weekend forms part of this programme and should not be viewed as an event that stands on its own. We are focussing on Easter simply because it represents one of the peak periods with high traffic volumes and high risk of road traffic crashes.

Road traffic fatalities are among the main causes of death in South Africa. They disrupt family lives and bring about misery to the dependents when a breadwinner is lost. They also result in enormous social and economic costs for the country which include health care and ongoing rehabilitation of the injured.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate Human Rights Month in March, we must put road safety high on the agenda as a human rights issue. We must confront the

scourge of road carnages with the same energy and effort that the people South Africa demonstrated when they confronted the apartheid regime on March 21 1961.

Road safety is a different kind of struggle. It requires commitment and dedication from everyone to move South Africa forward to a safer future.

We have engaged in this struggle together with many stakeholders including faith based organisations, road freight associations, the taxi industry, artists and others to inculcate a culture of road safety awareness.

We have seen some progress. A total **148** fatalities were recorded during the Easter Weekend last year compared to **201** in 2013. This represents a **26%** decline in fatalities, but still remains a cause of concern.

We will continue to be concerned about number of deaths and reckless behaviour on our roads. Passengers and pedestrians accounted for the majority of fatalities and it can't be correct.

The types of vehicles involved in crashes were light motor vehicles (46%), light delivery vehicles (21%), minibuses (9%), trucks (7%) and busses (1).

We know that most accidents happen at night on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday between 10pm and 6am. We therefore urge our people to plan trips properly and to drive during the day. Where possible it is better to arrive at your destination late than not to get there at all.

The national traffic police together with provincial and municipal law enforcement agencies will again be staging high impact operation on all known accidents hotspots and high volume routes this Easter to check for speeding, alcohol and substance abuse, over-loading and vehicle roadworthiness.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year **283 323** vehicles were stopped at these operations whereby **43 433** fines were issues, **1094** vehicles were discontinued and **1457** were impounded. A total of **330** people were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Therefore our message to those who want to break the rules of the road is clear. We will catch you and there will be dire consequences. **BE WARNED.**

Our commitment is to stop and check no less than one million vehicles and drivers every month, as part of our nation-wide road safety campaign. Like the Honourable President would say, “**Siyaqhuba. Siyasebenza**”.

The capacity of our national traffic police intervention unit has been bolstered by the deployment of 100 brand new vehicles this month. This will improve their visibility and strengthen law enforcement in all major routes and hotspots this year.

We will be implementing halfway stations or safe havens along major routes to address fatigue. These will be places where drivers can rest before proceeding with their journeys. We know that driver fatigue is a

major cause of accidents and we reiterate our call to drivers to take a rest after two hours of continuous driving or after 200 kilometres.

Let me reiterate our call to all road users:

- adhere to the speed limit
- avoid driving under the influence of alcohol
- avoid use of cell phones while driving
- ensure that your vehicle is roadworthy
- do not cross the road where it is not safe to do so
- take regular breaks
- buckle up, safety belts save lives

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the midst of all the efforts to reduce carnages on our roads, it only takes a fool to disobey the rules of our roads. I would like to leave you with an excerpt from a 60s musical, called TIME, which reads as follows

“You are the creator of your own universe, for as human being, you are free to will whatever state of being you desire. There is great power there. It can be a blessing or can be a curse, its entirely up to you”

**SO I URGE YOU TO CHOSE WISELY AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO CHOSE LIFE.**

I call upon all South Africans to join hands to make this and enjoyable and a safe Easter weekend. We all have a responsibility to save lives and move South Africa forward. **I THANK YOU**

Annexures

**Comparative Easter Fatal Crash Stats 2012 – 2014**

Year	GP	KZN	WC	EC	FS	MP	NW	LM	NC	RSA
2012	23	30	13	20	15	25	19	32	4	181
2013	38	47	9	18	16	25	18	25	53333	201
2014	22	39	6	19	9	18	7	23	5	148

# Comparative Law Enforcement Activity Outcomes: 2012 - 2014

Activity	2012	2013	2014
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Vehicles Stopped	N/A	250 301	283 323
Notices Issued	N/A	79056	43 433
Vehicles Discontinued	N/A	1039	1 094
Vehicles Impounded	N/A	1024	1 457
ARRESTS			
Driving under the influence of alcohol	N/A	864	330
Reckless and Negligent Driving	N/A	21	10
Excessive Speed	N/A	108	
Taxi Public Transport Permits	N/A	8	
False Documentation	N/A	6	
No Driving Licences	N/A	518	
Other Arrest	N/A	1078	112

# High Traffic Volume Routes: 2013

Easter 2013 Traffic volume per toll gate

Route	Site Name	28-Mar		29-Mar		30-Mar		31-Mar		01-Apr	
		Total	Avph	Total	Avph	Total	Avph	Total	Avph	Total	Avph
N1	Carousel plaza										
N1	Kranskop plaza	38211	1592	26752	1115	11838	493	18012	751	36129	1505
N1	Nyl Plaza	20200	842	15728	655	6353	265	10580	441	19847	827
N1	Huguenot plaza	8212	342	13967	582	21214	884	10505	438	17952	748
N1	Verkeerdevei	14523	605	10953	456	4536	189	7980	333	13246	552
N2	Groot Brak	18124	755	14007	584	11815	492	11526	480	14571	607
N3	De Hoek	31943	1331	24348	1015	9083	378	14369	599	31200	1300
N3	Wilge	28350	1181	21360	890	7631	318	12149	506	28937	1206
N3	N3TC Harrismith WIM	30603	1275	23850	994	8994	375	13596	567	31754	1323
N3	Van Reenen	30207	1259	24552	1023	8996	375	14047	585	32021	1334
N3	Tugela plaza	26436	1102	21681	903	7900	329	12263	511	28433	1185
N3	Mooi	37066	1544	29468	1228	13526	564	18689	779	35030	1460
N3	Marianhill	26850	1119	18185	758	15219	634	18026	751	25453	1061
N4	Middelburg	40601	1692	26669	1111	13310	555	17212	717	33011	1375

Avph= Average per hour

Total= total per day

# High Traffic Volume Routes: 2014

Route	Site Name	17-Apr		18-Apr		19-Apr		20-Apr		21-Apr	
		Total	Avph	Total	Avph	Total	Avph	Total	Avph	Total	Avph
N1	Carousel plaza	40670	1695	27239	1135	0	0	0	0		0
N1	Kranskop plaza	38329	1597	24182	1008	10149	423	15321	638		0
N1	Nyl Plaza	21212	884	15524	647	5644	235	9368	390		0
N1	Huguenot plaza	21560	898	12372	516	6678	278	9395	391		0
N1	Verkeerdevlei	14835	618	10569	440	3546	148	5750	240		0
N2	Groot Brak	16304	679	11877	495	9168	382	9684	404		0
N3	De Hoek	30850	1285	23623	984	7276	303	10774	449		0
N3	Wilge	26757	1115	20088	837	5672	236	8424	351		0
N3	N3TC Harrismith WIM	28591	1191	220779	920	6675	278	9551	398		0
N3	Van Reenen	28942	1206	22895	954	6856	286	9911	413		0
N3	Tugela plaza				0	0	0	0			0
N3	Mooi	35220	1468	27467	1144	10369	432	14364	599		0
N3	Marianhill	25799	1075	15909	663	13251	552	14999	625		0
N4	Middelburg	40601	1692	25899	1079	0	0	0	0		0

Avph= Average per hour

Total= total per day