

04/04/18 TNA Pg 2 DOT

Traffic infringements cause unending chaos

KUTULLO MADISHA

PRELIMINARY road accident reports have said driving at high speed and driving unlicensed and unroadworthy vehicles have been the major offences committed by motorists during the Easter holidays, Transport Minister Blade Nzimande said.

He warned road users to always ensure they observe the ABC's (awareness, behaviour and choice) of road safety.

Nzimande also condemned the protests by the truck drivers who blocked the Mooiriver Toll Plaza on Monday morning.

The protesters were complaining about their conditions of employment.

He urged employers to ensure that they urgently engage their employees to find a solution to the concerns of the truck drivers.

The minister also condemned the action by protesters from the nearby settlement along the N3 who barricaded the toll plaza and looted and burned delivery trucks, which were stuck in traffic.

"While we respect the right of citizens to protest, we discourage any senseless acts of the destruction of property, criminality and sabotage," Nzimande said.

He confirmed that both sides of the Mooiriver Toll Plaza remained fully

operational and urged motorists to remain patient and drive cautiously after these massive traffic jams.

He went on to say that he was gratified by the law enforcement fraternity's swift response, led by the Minister of Police, Bheki Cele and the MEC for transport, community safety and liaison in KwaZulu-Natal, Mxolisi Kaunda and all the emergency personnel who responded to the incident.

Meanwhile, the city of Johannesburg Emergency Management Services says the number of motor vehicle accidents and pedestrian accidents responded to during Easter was a concern.

A total of 183 motor vehicle accidents were reported and 145 were pedestrian accidents with five fatalities.

"In one of the pedestrian accidents we attended to on Good Friday, a female nurse lost her life when she was knocked down by a speeding vehicle on her way to work along Chris Hani Road in Pimville, Soweto.

"We therefore would like to urge our residents to exercise extreme caution when walking and also crossing the road, residents are urged to wear visible clothing, especially at night and also to use designated pedestrian bridges when crossing the highway and refrain from drinking and walking, especially at night," he said.

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ROAD SAFETY: Minister of Transport Blade Nzimande. PICTURE: GALLO IMAGES

04/04/18 TNA Pg 7 MDSAPS POS

Suspected thief beaten up by community members

ELFAS TORERAI

A SUSPECTED thief, 26, was caught and beaten to a pulp by angry community members for stealing plates from a house.

The incident happened at Tlhabologo village near Mahikeng at the weekend.

The man tried to run away but he was nabbed by two cousins, Tshenolo and Ikageng Motlhala, who matched his speed. He was caught with two bags full of plates and an electric iron.

After a severe beating, the man's face was covered in blood with the right eye swollen.

Crime weary residents punched, kicked and sjambokked the man.

"I made a mistake, please forgive me," the man said. "I will not steal again. I just wanted to sell them and get something to eat as I am not working."

He had jumped over the fence and opened the door as it was not locked before helping himself to plates and an iron.

One resident, Kenneth Madilola, said he saw the thug next door carrying bags and became suspicious.

"I opened a case of stolen goods early this year after my drilling machines and other electrical appliances were stolen from the house," Madilola said.

"By then the police could not arrest anyone. This young man must bring back our property."

Vuyiswa Mathumbo said last year her house was broken into and a TV was stolen.

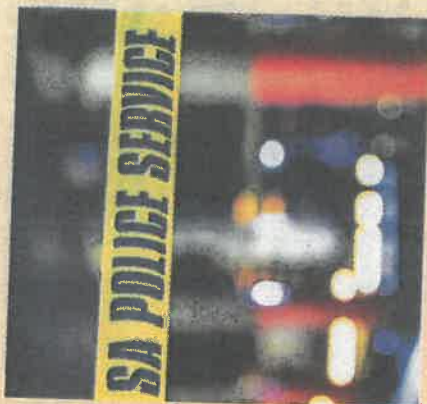
"There have been several house break-in cases happening here," Mathumbo said.

"My TV was stolen when we were asleep and I only realised in the morning. This man is not from here but a nearby village.

"He must be charged and jailed so that we can live peacefully."

Police spokesperson Amanda Funani confirmed the incident and said the man would appear in court soon.

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ARRESTED: A thief was caught after stealing. PICTURE COURTESY