

National road safety campaign launched

KUTULLO MADISHA

TRANSPORT Minister Joe Maswanganyi will today launch the 2017 festive season road safety campaign at the Sunfa Stadium Bela Bela in Limpopo.

This year's campaign will focus on obeying the rules of the road and alcohol abuse and drunk driving in particular.

Mobile testing stations will be placed at strategic points to test the roadworthiness of vehicles, be they short or long distance.

Drivers will also be tested for alcohol levels at all road safety law enforcement activations.

"The high number of road fatalities and injuries, during the festive season and all-year round, remains a major concern for government," the department said.

"Young people between the ages of 20 and 34 constitute the majority of people who die on South African roads."

Maswanganyi will be joined at the launch by Deputy Minister Sindisiwe Chikunga, MECs for public works, roads and transport and community safety, security and liaison from various provinces, CEOs of trans-

port entities and other key transport stakeholders.

They will participate in a road safety walk and prayers led by faith-based organisations and visit the families of road accident victims.

Maswanganyi will also interact with and address the local community on road safety issues.

The festive season road death statistics for last year recorded 1714 fatalities which was a 5% increase over the previous period.

By mid-December last year there were more than 800 fatalities on the country's roads.

Last year's early December figures reflected a staggering 17% increase in road accidents compared to the previ-



ON DUTY: Minister of Transport Joe Maswanganyi. PICTURE: THAPELO MOREBUDI

ous year.

Transport minister at the time, Dipuo Peters, said 432 roadblocks were conducted throughout the country during the festive period and 453 263 fines were issued.

The most number of fatalities were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape, Gauteng and Limpopo, which made up 61% of the total number of deaths.

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Murder suspect denied bail

ELFAS TORERAI

A 28-YEAR-OLD man arrested for a fatal attack on an elderly Potchefstroom couple was remanded in custody after he appeared in the Potchefstroom Magistrate's Court on Monday.

Phuza Netshingolwe is alleged to have been part of a three-men gang that attacked and killed a 69-year-old

man and critically injuring his 66-year-old wife on Friday.

"According to information received, reports suggest that three men broke into and gained entrance to the couple's house. They ransacked the house and assaulted the couple with a blunt instrument. The suspects fled with the couple's Isuzu bakkie," Sgt Kelebogile Moleko said.