

Fatal crashes raise concerns

Six people were killed and three others injured in a head-on collision along the N12 Road near Potchefstroom

ELFAS TORERAI

TRAFFIC authorities in the North West expressed concern at the number of people who lost their lives when the busy festive season was almost over.

This came after six people were killed and three others injured in a head-on collision along the N12 Road near Potchefstroom on Wednesday night last week.

The accident involved a bakkie and a light motor vehicle. It happened about midnight and the mangled wreckage of the two vehicles was found in the middle of the road.

ER24 paramedics spokesperson Russell Meiring said they found that there were six people in the light motor vehicle and three in the bakkie.

"Paramedics assessed the patients in the light motor vehicle and found that two men, a woman and two children aged three and four had all sustained numerous injuries and showed no signs of life," Meiring said.

"Nothing could be done for them and they were later declared dead. A sixth patient in the light motor vehicle, a woman, was found to be in a critical condition. Paramedics treated the woman and provided her with advanced life support interventions."

Of those in the bakkie, Meiring said two had sustained moderate injuries, while a third had died.

"Nothing could be done for the man



CONCERNS: Six people were killed in a head-on collision on the N12 near Potchefstroom last week. PICTURE: GETTY IMAGES

and he was declared dead. Once paramedics had treated the three patients, the critically injured were airlifted by a private medical helicopter to Lenmed Randfontein for urgent treatment.

"The two other patients were transported by ambulance to a nearby hos-

pital," he said. Community safety and transport management's Dr. Mokoaneng Mpho Motilhabane bemoaned the deaths and said it was a huge concern for the province, especially after another accident claimed seven lives last week.

"I believe that these accidents affected our statistics phenomenally."

under the circumstances," he said.

The department will release the festive season accident statistics soon but the two recent accidents are said to have drastically moved the numbers up.

The Road Accident Fund (RAF) also sent its condolences to the families and friends of six people who died in the N12 accident.

RAF chief marketing officer Phumela Dhlomo said: "We will do everything in our power to ease the burden of eligible survivors and victims' families."

"Our team in North West will work alongside the police to verify the cause of the accident and identities of the deceased to provide the necessary support."

Dhlomo further said the RAF staff would engage the families of the deceased to facilitate funeral arrangements while providing advice regarding the RAF's service offerings.

"After the burials, consultation sessions will continue with the bereaved families to register claims for various qualifying benefits as stipulated in the RAF Act.

"Family members who would like more information regarding the claims process and what they are eligible for are requested to kindly contact the RAF's customer service centre in Mabikeng at shop 109, Mega City shopping centre," Dhlomo said.

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Missing man found sleeping under a tree after two weeks of hunt

ELFAS TORERAI

IT WAS a happy ending for a Taung family after a 20-year-old missing member was found after almost two weeks of searching.

Tunising Makabela went missing on January 2 and was only found on Saturday.

The young man is said to be mentally unstable and his image was published on various media platforms since he went missing.

North West police spokesperson Lt-Col Adèle Myburgh said: "Police in Taung received information on Saturday that the missing man was seen walking on the road between Christiana and Jan Kempdorp.

"The investigating officer went to this road, accompanied by family members and about 2.30pm, Makabela was found sleeping under a tree about 15-20 km from Christiana. He was dirty and tired and he was taken to a local hospital where he was admitted," she said.

Makabela went missing from Chief scout village in Taung, after visiting family during the festive season.

His uncle was the last to see him on January 2 as he left the house on foot about 10am.

At the time, he was wearing a blue T-shirt, navy blue trousers and red takkies.

After Makabela failed to come back home, the family reported him missing on January 6 at Taung police station where a missing person enquiry was

registered for investigation. Myburgh said previous information police had received was that Makabela was spotted by a community member last week Wednesday walking on the Christiana/Jan Kempdorp Road to Jan Kempdorp.

North West police commissioner Lt-Col Balle Motsweryane expressed her appreciation about the cooperation between the police, family members, community members and the media that resulted in the missing person

being traced and found. She said it was a relief to police management and the community given the reported number of people who go missing never to be found alive, if found at all.

In another incident, police are on the look-out for a four-year-old boy who went missing on Christmas day and has not been found.

In a statement, police appealed to members of the public to assist in finding Moses Mojalefa Wana.

"He went missing on Christmas day. He went with his siblings to the Welgevonden fields in Ventersdorp. The missing child was already circled in the local newspapers but the boy is still missing.

"The investigating officer on the case is Sgt. de Ruiter of Potchefstroom FCS. She can be contacted with any information that could lead to the safe return of the boy on 018 293 9200 or 060 970 9120," police said.

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