

High road fatalities in NW

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between the ages of 35 and 49. "The highest number of fatalities was among pedestrians which increased from 34% to 37%. Fatalities among drivers also increased from 23% to 27%. However, there was a decline in passenger fatalities from 41% to 35% which indicates that it is possible to save more lives if more people used safety belts," he said.

There was a increase in the number of fatalities within the municipal boundaries of eThekweni, Johannesburg, Nkangala, Cape Town, Ekurhuleni, Ehlanzeni, Capricorn, city of Tshwane, Thabo Mofutsanyane and Bojanala.

"Speed continued to be a major headache with 922 drivers arrested compared to 785 in the 2016-17 period. While drunken driving was a major focus area, there was a decline in the number of motorists arrested for drunken driving from 5 943 in the 2016-17 period to 3 301 in the 2017-18 period," he said.

Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi said they had engaged magistrates to ensure there are tough consequences for those who break the rules of the road, particularly drunk drivers, speedsters and reckless and negligent drivers.

"This is part of reclassifying these offences into Schedule 5 offences, which are more severe," he said. kutullom@thenewage.co.za

FIGURES show that fatalities on North West roads during the festive season increased by 11%.

The Department of Transport recorded a noticeable decline in the number of fatalities in seven provinces with the exception of the North West and the Western Cape which showed a 7% increase.

Limpopo achieved the highest reduction in the number of fatalities followed by the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal. Western Cape transport MEC Donald Grant attributed the increase in fatalities in the province to the increase in the number of pedestrians.

"Almost 61% of the pedestrians who are killed and found in the morgues have ethanol in their blood. In other words, they have been drinking," Grant said.

The North West is planning to increase speed calmers on its roads to reduce fatalities.

Young drivers between the ages of 25 and 34 remain the major contributors to road fatalities with 1 527 people, an 11% decline compared to 1 714 fatalities in the same period in 2016-17.

While there was an increase in fatalities among young drivers, a preliminary report showed an encouraging decline in the number of fatalities among drivers

High number of pedestrian deaths

The minister spoke about statistics that compared the periods between December 1 and January 9 of the 2016/17 and 2017/18 years, saying there was a disturbing increase in the number of pedestrian

fatalities among young drivers, aged between 25 and 34, whereas drivers between 35 and 49 saw a decline. The minister also indicated that despite the increases, there had been a fall in passenger fatalities from 41% to 35%. Fatalities were said to be most prevalent among young drivers, aged between 25 and 34, whereas drivers between 35

Road deaths are down

By KCOMOTSO MEDUPE

MOST of the 1 676 people who died on Mzansi roads during the Christmas holiday period were pedestrians.

Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi said in Tshwane yesterday that pedestrian deaths had increased from 34% to 37%, compared to the previous year.

The total figure for the 2017/18 period shows a decrease of 11%, compared to the previous festive season.

Photo by Morapedi Mashashe



Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi released the first festive season road safety report.

He said speed continued to be a major problem, with 922 drivers bust, compared to 785 in the 2016/17 period. While drunken driving was a major focus area, there was a decline in the number of motorists arrested for drunken driving from 5 943 in the 2016-17 period to 3 301 in the 2017-18 period.

Bakwena, operator of the N14 toll route, recorded nine deaths in December last year and three between 1 and 15 January - lower than the previous year's figure.

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PEDESTRIAN fatalities remain a sore point for road stakeholders, Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi said yesterday.

This was despite the department recording a decrease in road fatalities in seven provinces, he said.

sional 2017 festive season road safety report in Pretoria.

The minister said the department was pleased that the use of campaigns - channelled through social media platforms - had assisted in surpassing their initial target

10% and resulted in an 11% decrease.

The Western Cape and the North West recorded an increase in fatalities by 7% and 11% respectively, he said. Limpopo recorded the highest reduction in fatalities, followed

KwaZulu-Natal.

The minister spoke about statistics that compared the periods between December 1 and January 9 of the 2016/17 and 2017/18 years, saying there was a disturbing increase in the number of pedestrian

Pedestrian deaths still a big headache

Minister hails 11% drop in 2017 festive season road fatalities

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closely by the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal.

He spoke about statistics that compared the periods between December 1 to January 9 of the 2016/17 and 2017/18 years, saying there was a disturbing increase in the number of pedestrian fatalities within a number of municipal boundaries, including Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Joburg, Thabo Mofutsanyane and eThekweni.

The Nkangala, Cape Town, Ehlanzeni and Capricorn municipalities had also shown an increase in pedestrian deaths.

According to the report, 1 676 deaths were recorded during the 2017/18 period as opposed to the previous year, when 1 875 fatalities were recorded.

Despite that, fatalities among pedestrians had increased from 34% to 37%, while driver fatalities also went up from 23% to 27%. Maswanganyi also indicated that despite the increases, there had been a decline in passenger fatalities from 41% to

PEDESTRIAN fatalities from Tshwane and other top metros remain a sore point for road stakeholders, Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi said yesterday.

This was despite the department recording a decrease in road fatalities in seven provinces, Maswanganyi said.

He was delivering the provincial 2017 festive season road safety report in Pretoria.

The minister said the department was pleased that the use of campaigns – channelled through social media platforms – had assisted in surmounting the initial target of reducing road fatalities by 10% and resulted in an 11% decrease.

The Western Cape and the North West recorded an increase in fatalities by 7% and 11% respectively, he said.

Limpopo recorded the highest reduction in fatalities, followed

by the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal.

He spoke about statistics that compared the periods between December 1 to January 9 of the 2016/17 and 2017/18 years, saying there was a disturbing increase in the number of pedestrian fatalities within a number of municipal boundaries, including Tshwane, Ekurhuleni, Joburg, Thabo Mofutsanyane and eThekweni.

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PICTURE: BONGANI SHILUBANE/AFRICAN NATIONAL AGENCY (ANA)

Minister of Transport Joe Maswanganyi releases the provisional festive season road safety report.

Improved picture during this recent festive season holiday period.

There was also an indication that there had been improved compliance to warnings against drinking and driving, with a decline in arrests for the violation.

According to Maswanganyi, 5 943 arrests were made for drunk driving for the 2016/17 period, against 3 301 this past festive season.

“We’re not interested in the statistics but in the lives of people. Whether it is 1 000 or one life, it is still too many. People need to understand the impact and severity of losing a loved one in an accident.”

A warning was also sent to citizens who assaulted traffic officers as witnessed in videos circulating on social media.

“Those who assault or kill officers can’t and won’t be tolerated. If we don’t deal

with this immediately, it will become a trend. If officers don’t feel safe what then of the citizens?”

With 2018 being declared “The Year of Improved Road Safety in South Africa”, a stern warning was also sent to testing stations issuing licences fraudulently.

To this effect, during a raid of three privately owned vehicle testing stations across Gauteng, 10 examiners were arrested on allegations

of issuing roadworthy certificates to vehicles they had never examined.

The transport minister announced that to ensure all was above board, an audit of all vehicle testing centres and driver and learner testing centres would be conducted by the department.

He said the audit would run parallel to investigations being undertaken by the Special Investigation Unit.

Road fatalities down by 11%

South Africa's festive season road death toll decreased by a significant 11% to 1 527, compared to 1 714 fatalities recorded in the same period of the previous year, Transport Minister Joe Maswanganyi said yesterday.

"Our preliminary festive season fatalities for the period starting December 1, 2017, to January 9, 2018, show that there were 1 527 people who died on the roads in that period compared to 1 714 fatalities in the same period the previous year," Maswanganyi said in Pretoria.

"This represents an 11% decline, which surpassed the 10% target. When considering the entire holiday period from December 1, 2017, to January 15, 2018, there were 1 676 fatalities compared to 1 875 fatalities for the same period in the previous year."

Maswanganyi said as a result of concerted efforts from law enforcement agencies, with cooperation from the judiciary, a festive season plan was well executed – which resulted in noticeable declines in the number of fatalities in seven provinces – with the exception of the Western Cape and the North West, which recorded 7%, and 11% increases, respectively.

"[The] Limpopo [province] was a star performer as it managed to achieve the highest reduction in the number of fatalities, followed by the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal. The highest number of fatalities was among pedestrians, which increased from 34% to 37%, and fatalities among drivers also increased from 23% to 27%.

"However, there was a decline in passenger fatalities from 41% to 35%, which indicates that it is possible to save more lives if more people use safety belts," said Maswanganyi.

He said the number of traffic violation notices showed a decrease [from] 453 263 in the previous period to 304 603 in the period under review.

"There was a decline in the number of people who were fined for failing to wear safety belts, and the number of discontinued vehicles. There was a decline in the number of motorists arrested for drunken driving from 5 943 in the 2016-17 period to 3 301 in the 2017-18."

Maswanganyi, however, said speeding "continued to be a headache with 922 drivers arrested for speed compared to 785 in the 2016-17 period. Five motorists were arrested in Limpopo, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape for driving at speeds exceeding 220km/h." – ANA

ROAD FATALITIES 2017-18 FESTIVE SEASON

The road death toll recorded from December 1, 2017 – January 15, 2018.

