

28/03/18 - TNA - F91 - P03 - NWSAPes

# Operation Fiela II nets 82 suspects

ELFAS TORERI

POLICE in Mahikeng and Brits arrested 82 people during Operation Fiela II in the two towns at the weekend.

The 82 were held for various offences including possession of drugs, drunk driving as well as different liquor and traffic related offences.

A total of 30 people alleged to be undocumented were also taken in for processing.

North West police spokesperson Brig Sabata Mokgwabone said goods such as a firearm, dagga, liquor and dangerous weapons were confiscated during the operation.

"Police in the province, together with other role players, will continue with these operations including during Easter holidays to reassert the authority of the state and to ensure that the

people feel safe.

"It is common knowledge that crime escalates during this period and this requires extra deployment and vigilance by the police to prevent and combat crimes through enhanced visibility including safety on identified national roads," he said.

Mokgwabone said although police would be working to ensure safety and security as well as stabilising identified crime hot spot areas, it was vital that members of the community took preventative measures to safeguard themselves and their properties.

"Some of the following safety tips can help: do not drink and drive, avoid speeding by leaving your departure point on time. In case of pedestrians, do not drink and walk on or along the



Colonel Sabata Mokgwabone

road," he said.

For those going out for the weekend, Mokgwabone said they should avoid leaving their houses unattended.

"Rather leave another person to take care of it or report your absence to your police station so that the police can make turns at your place dur-

ing patrols. To avoid hijackings, know your destination and be alert if you get lost, never leave keys in the ignition when alighting the car to open the gate.

"If possible, avoid walking alone. Your best defence is having other people nearby. If you walk alone, plan your route carefully and stay in well-lit areas as much as possible," he said.

He cautioned motorists to be alert and avoid picking up hitchhikers.

*elfast@thenewage.co.za*

Prioritise road safety - pg 9 - National - pos

## Prioritise road safety

**T**OMORROW the annual Easter weekend mad rush begins, with thousands of motorists hitting the highways and byways for holiday and religious pilgrimages. As is often the case, dozens of these road users will not survive.

Last year, 235 people died on South African roads over the Easter holidays, a phenomenal 51% increase from the 2016 figure of 156.

According to the Road Traffic Management Corporation, the reasons for the fatalities include drivers and passengers not wearing seat belts, drinking and driving and overloading. Human factors are indicated as the biggest contributor to road crashes and fatalities, accounting for 77.5% of contributing factors. Vehicle factors (6%) and road and environmental factors (16.5%), make up the balance of contributing factors.

The Automobile Association says among the human factors that lead to crashes - and deaths - are jaywalking pedestrians (38.8%), hit-and-run crashes (18.5%), high speed (14.1%), overtaking in the face of oncoming traffic (6.9%), drunk driving or driving while on drugs (3.6%), and driver fatigue (2.2%).

The attitude of South Africa road users must rank among the most atrocious in the world. Each Monday our newspapers are filled with shocking statistics of drivers arrested during weekend crackdowns on drunk drivers. Check-by-jowl are figures of drivers held for speeding. A more vigorous approach to road safety education is needed in schools, teaching children from a young age to be better road users. And while authorities can do more to address the road carnage, it is the responsibility of every road user - motorist and pedestrian - to heed the call to drive and walk cautiously.

Don't exceed the speed limit. Don't drink and drive. Take a rest every two hours or 200km. Don't drive recklessly or disobey the rules of the road. Ensure your vehicle is roadworthy. Be considerate to fellow road users. Don't walk on highways, especially while drunk and wearing dark clothing.

This Easter weekend let's make road safety a top priority.

## Prioritise road safety

**T**OMORROW the annual Easter weekend mad rush begins, with thousands of motorists hitting the highways and byways for holiday and religious pilgrimages. And, as is often the case, dozens of these road users will not make survive.

Last year, 235 people died on South African roads over the Easter holidays, a phenomenal 51% increase over the 2016 figure of 156. Some of the deadliest crashes over last year's Easter weekend were recorded in Gauteng, the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. A breakdown of what contributed the most in the fatalities shows it was passengers (50%), pedestrians (24.5%), drivers (19.8%) and cyclists (5.7%).

According to the Road Traffic Management Corporation, the reasons for the fatalities include drivers and passengers not wearing seat belts, drinking and driving, and overloading. Human factors are indicated as the biggest contributor to road crashes and fatalities, accounting for 77.5% of contributing factors. Vehicle factors (6%) and road and environmental factors (16.5%), make up the balance of contributing factors.

The Automobile Association says among the human factors that lead to crashes - and deaths - are jaywalking pedestrians (38.8%), hit and run crashes (18.5%), high speed (14.1%), overtaking in the face of oncoming traffic (6.9%), drunk driving or driving while on drugs (3.6%), and driver fatigue (2.2%).

The attitude of South Africa road users must rank among the most atrocious in the world. Each Monday our newspapers are filled with shocking statistics of drivers arrested during weekend crackdowns on drunk drivers. Check-by-jowl are figures of drivers held for speeding.

A more vigorous approach to road safety education is needed in schools, teaching children from a young age to be better road users. And while authorities can do more to address the road carnage, it is the responsibility of every road user - motorist and pedestrian - to heed the call to drive and walk safer. Don't exceed the speed limit. Don't drink and drive. Take a rest every two hours or 200km. Don't drive recklessly or disobey the rules of the road. Ensure your vehicle is roadworthy. Be considerate to fellow road users. Don't walk on highways, especially while drunk, and don't wear dark clothing.

Road fatalities are a cause for great concern - this Easter weekend let's make road safety a top priority.

INA National - pg 7 - pos

## Safety campaign on track

ELFAS TORERAI

THE Moses Kotane and the Thabazimbi local municipalities have launched a joint Tshela thupa operation Easter campaign to ensure road safety on the R510 road linking Mogwase and Northam in Limpopo.

The road is one of the busiest in the province, used by all sorts of vehicles ranging from passenger cars to heavy duty trucks travelling from Rustenburg to Limpopo.

Moses Kotane mayor Ralesole Diale said road users should be vigilant during the Easter holidays.

"People will be travelling to different destinations for different reasons and therefore we make this humble plea to motorists to take extra care on the road

and ensure that their vehicles are road worthy," he said.

Diale said a lot of livestock wander on the road and motorists ought to be on the lookout to avoid accidents.

Acting Thabazimbi mayor Ronny Manyama called on traffic and other law enforcement officials to execute their duties without fear or favour.

Both mayors handed over car seats to three lucky motorists who were travelling with kids as part of the campaign. Nkileng Ramekgwe was one of the recipients of a car seat and couldn't contain her excitement when she received it.

"I will travel with my two-year-old boy with no worries as he will be safe and comfortable" she said.

[elfast@thenewage.co.z](mailto:elfast@thenewage.co.z)