

Pupils excel at road safety debate

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Tiger Kloof Combined School in Vryburg excelled at national road safety debate in Rustenburg at the weekend

A TEAM of pupils from Tiger Kloof Combined School in Vryburg finished second in the national road safety debate in Rustenburg at the weekend. The school gave a good account of itself as it put up a gallant fight to keep the hosting province in the game.

In the end, it fell short to the eventual winners from Mpumalanga.

In the disability category, pupils from Gelukspan-based Tlamehang School for the Disabled also came second after a Gauteng school pipped them to the post.

The intense week-long debate was part of the government's efforts to have pupils identify road traffic challenges in their areas and proffer solutions to such.

The debate also helped teach pupils to take responsibility for road safety issues that affect their communities and to develop and enhance their presentation, communication and listening skills.

Two approaches were used, which involved theory and practical exercises.

Pupils were judged on models and presentations illustrating their community road safety problems and researched solutions.

Challenges such as a lack of drop-off zones, a lack of speed humps, a lack of pedestrian crossings, speeding, faded road signs, ignorant road users and a



RUNNERS-UP: A team of pupils from Tiger Kloof High School near Vryburg finished second in the national road safety debate in Rustenburg at the weekend.

lack of fencing along the national and areas of this year's debate competition, local roads that results in animals going astray were some of the main focus.

Community safety, and transport management MEC Mpho Motlhabane said a road safety campaign of this nature had to be done until the battle to stop accidents was won.

He called on South Africans to unite to promote road safety and deal with road crashes and fatalities.

Motlhabane said the fight must continue until the country was free of death on the roads and young people could walk, ride and cycle safely on the roads.

"In the same way that South Africans were united in their struggle for eradication of the oppressive regime, let us join hands and continue with the struggle for eradication of road crashes and fatalities," he said.

"Our success in this fight relies on every South African citizen because road safety is everyone's responsibility."

"Our roles might differ but what matters is the ultimate goal of implementing the National Road Safety Strategy 2016-2030," Motlhabane said.

The National Road Safety Strategy 2016-2030, as approved by Parliament earlier this year, seeks to address the challenges and gaps identified by the department on the implementation of the previous road safety strategies.

Motlhabane said it was encouraging that young people should take the lead on championing road safety campaigns.

"You are good, responsible citizens and we trust that you will continue with the same attitude when you are grown up and driving on the roads," he said.

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