

MEDIA STATEMENT

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NW improves standard of driving through competition

Heavy vehicles and bus drivers across the province improved their driving skills and driver behaviour on the roads when they compete for first positions in different categories during a two day driver of the year competition held in Brits.

North West MEC for Human Settlements, Public Safety and Liaison, Nono Maloyi said the competition is reaching its intended objectives as it continues to change driver behaviour and improves the standard of driving in the province and the country at large.

Awarding winners and addressing all drivers who participated during the competition, Maloyi encouraged motorists particularly those who drive heavy vehicles and public transport to be extra careful on the roads to assist law enforcement agencies in protecting the lives and averting road carnages all the time.

“Festive season has started and this is the time where our motorists have to behave well, obey the road laws and work with our law enforcement agencies rather than doing the opposite and drive recklessly on our roads. We need to change their behaviour and with this competition we believe that those who entered the competition this year today they are better drivers,” said Maloyi.

The Departmental MEC called on major transport companies to engage and encourage their employees to take part in such activities, as they will assist in curbing road accidents. He said that working with communities and getting other driver’s corporation can assist great deal in making sure that accidents are prevented by being careful and adhering to road rules.

The MEC further sends a strong warning to reckless drivers and all law defaulters that law enforcement officers would not show any mercy to them during this festive season.

With a whopping cheque of R5 000 each, the following drivers will represent the province at the National competition next year February in East London in the Eastern Cape:

- Ms. Margret Rakuba, women bus driver category
- Ben Rammile, men bus category
- Masego Gaoketse, lady category
- Martin Segiri, panel van category and
- Zaokane Velaphe rigid category.

Margret Rakuba from Bojanala Bus services in Rustenburg she only decided to drive a bus mainly because she was unemployed and that made her successfully venture into the male dominated industry.

The mother of four said the competition was an eye opener as it has acquired more skills and lot of concentration.

About 66 men and women drivers participated in this year's competition. The driver skills enhancement programme is an annual strategic education intervention measure targeting heavy vehicle's drivers in government, transport companies and public transport between the ages of 18 and 55 years.

The main purpose of the programme is to promote safe road usage at all times and constantly improve the standard of driving in the province.

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