



Media Statement

18 December 2018

Speedsters nabbed over the weekend

Ten speedsters who were driving in and around Mbombela and Ngodwana were arrested over the weekend on the R40 and N4 Toll roads and all of them were male drivers. A 44-year-old man was caught driving at 175 km/h in a 120 km/h zone on N4 toll road near Alkmaar outside Mbombela.

Another 50-year male motorist was stopped on R40 Road between Mbombela and White River when his vehicle was moving at 147 km/h in a 100 km/h zone. On the same road, another driver came into conflict with the law when he registered 144 km/h in an 80 km/h area.

Three more male culprits could not escape the law enforcers when they brought to book for travelling at 160 m/h, 156 km/h and 143 km/h respectively on 100 km/h zone on N4 toll road near Schoemanskloof. All the culprits have granted bail and they will appear in court soon.

Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Pat Ngomane has applauded the traffic officers for bringing the seven to book saying that he believes they have learnt their lesson and should now face the consequences of their reckless road behaviour.

Ngomane says all motorists should by now know that excessive speeding on the road lead to crashes that mostly result in people becoming seriously injured and in worst cases losing their lives. Therefore, the MEC says, law enforcers should continue to show no mercy on road users who are not obeying traffic rules during this holiday season and beyond.

He once more encouraged road users to be highly cautious on the road amid the expected traffic volumes over the weekend leading to Christmas. He has also appealed to owners and drivers of public transport operators to avoid pressurizing drivers in order to maximize profits at the expense of commuters.

Meanwhile, road crashes across the was province have already claimed 79 lives in 358 crashes between 1 and 17 December 2018. The number represents a reduction of 7% as compared to the same period last year. Over 300 people sustained serious injuries. Nkangala Region recorded 38 fatalities followed by Ehlanzeni Region's 26 road deaths and Gert Sibande Region registered 18 loss of lives due to crashes.

Most of the crashes so far occurred as a result of excessive speeding, dangerous overtaking and general disregard for traffic rules and regulations. Most of these crashes occurred mostly at night and on weekends in the early morning hours.

MEC Ngomane added that loss of lives extremely regrettable moreover when the crashes could have been avoided had greater care been taken. He has therefore called on all motorists to use the road with heightened caution so that further tragedies are avoided. "These crashes continue to bring hardships to many families. We are therefore appealing to everyone on the road to be extremely careful because law enforcers cannot be on every stretch of the road. We must all play our part in order to save lives," MEC says.

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