



MEDIA STATEMENT

To : All Media
Issued : Wednesday, 9 September 2015
Attention : News Editors/ Transport Reporter/ PR WIRES

RTMC Preaching Road Safety with Joyous Celebration

PRETORIA- The Road Traffic Management Corporation has teamed up with Joyous Celebration to preach the gospel of road safety in the Free State this week as part of the 365 days of road safety programme.

Members of the group - supported by road safety officials from the RTMC and provincial Police, Roads and Transport department- will visit schools, taxi ranks, malls and institutions of higher learning and other points where there are high volumes road users on Friday and Saturday.

The road safety advocacy and education work will culminate in the popular Joyous Celebration concert in Bloemfontein on Saturday evening.

“The Free State is one of our key focal points in our efforts to promote road safety and save lives on our roads,” RTMC CEO Advocate Makhosini Msibi said.

The partnership with Joyous Celebration presents us with an opportunity to reach the highest number of people through the voices of the people that they identify with and can trust, he said.

The Free State province has three major national routes passing through it, increasing its risks for motor vehicle crashes. The N3 runs through the northern

part of the province with high accident zones between Villiers and Warden as well as between Warden and Van Reenen pass on the Kwa-Zulu Natal border.

The N5 runs through Harrismith to Bloemfontein exposing residents in many of the small towns it passes through to crashes and there is the N1 that runs from Gauteng to Cape Town. The N1 passes through towns such as Kroonstand, Ventersburg and Winburg. This is the longest route that passes through the province.

Last year (2014) the Free State province recorded the highest increase in the number of fatal crashes. The crashes went up from 470 to 650, a 36.5% increase that pushed the number of fatalities from 541 to 874 deaths.

Passengers constituted the majority of those killed, followed by drivers and pedestrians. The Free State province experiences the sharpest increase in passenger deaths followed by Gauteng.

September is one of the months in which South Africa experience a high number of crashes. Other high risk months in crashes include June, July August, October, November and December. Road crashes are at their lowest in January and February.

In the Free State the high number of crashes takes place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Monday and Thursday are the safest days to be in this province as these are the days that it experiences the least number of road crashes.

Efforts are being made throughout the year to educate road users about road safety and enforce traffic laws to reduce crashes and save lives.

ISSUED BY: THE ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

CONTACT: SIMON ZWANE 083 554 7730

Twitter: @TrafficRTMC

Board of Directors: Mr Z Majavu (Chairman), Mr P Browning,
Mr S Ledwaba, Ms P Mathabathe, Ms K Mdlulwa, Mr G Nicholls, Mr J Motsatsing*
Chief Executive Officer: Advocate MS Msibi
Company Secretary: Mr M Razwinani
*Departmental Representative