



Road Traffic
Management Corporation

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The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) is an Agency of The Department of Transport and a Member of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration

MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS
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ATTENTION: NEWS REPORTERS / TRANSPORT REPORTERS

#ClaimYourSpace: Young People Challenged to Make South African Roads Safer During Youth Month

The South African youth are called upon to prioritise safety on the roads to ensure that the country has as sustainable future.

This comes as the country celebrates youth month with the theme “Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future”.

Youth related road crashes and injuries constitute a major health challenge and exert a heavy burden on the economy and social infrastructure. Young people between the ages of 20 and 39 years are more likely to die or be injured in a motor vehicle crash and have more motor vehicle crash-related hospitalisation and emergency room visits.

According to statistics collected by the Road Traffic Management Corporation about half (49.7%) of people who died on the roads last year (2022) were the youth and young adults aged between 20 and 39 years. The highest number of road fatalities is noticeable among those between the ages of 30 and 39 years.



Board of Directors: Ms N Mufamadi (Chairperson), Prof. M Mphahlele, Ms T Thankge CD(SA), Dr E Thebe, Adv. X Stemela, Ms L Magalo, Prof C Twala, Mr NJ Kudzingana, Adv. J Makgatho*
Chief Executive Officer: Advocate MS Msibi
Company Secretary: Ms S Petse
**Departmental Representative*

A total number of people (all age groups) who died on the roads in South Africa last year is 12 436 which was a 0.8 percent decline when compared to 12 545 that died the previous year.

Around the world, young people have been identified as high-risk group for road safety because they are inexperienced, and they tend to overestimate their abilities.

Their behaviour patterns are strongly associated with expectations and social pressures that promote risk taking. Many tend to be strongly oriented towards and are sensitive to peer pressure.

They are responsive to their immediate environments where they are limited in self-control, and disinclined to focus on long-term consequences, all of which leads to compromised decision-making skills.

In line with a call by the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety, young people in South Africa must claim their space in debates and in shaping policies that are intended to make roads safer.

To facilitate this, the RTMC, in collaboration with the national department of transport, provincial, non-government organisations, institutions of higher education and the private sector will be engaging in advocacy work for the whole month to promote responsible road usage by the youth.

Seminars, road safety dialogues and exhibitions will be held in all provinces to engage young people in finding solutions to the country's road safety challenges.

ENDS.

ISSUED BY: THE ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (RTMC)

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