

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, MS BARBARA CREECY (MP) AT THE EASTER ROAD
SAFETY ACTIVATION ON N1 KRANSKOP

21 April 2025

Programme Director

Deputy Minister of Transport, Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you very much for your presence here today. We are here to monitor the return of traffic from Limpopo as the Easter holiday period approaches an end

We have chosen the N1 because this is the busiest route of all during the Easter period. Traffic volumes on this route were the highest seen in the past five years. This is partly because of the decision by the Zion Christian Churches to re-open and allow pilgrimage for the first time after the end of the Covid restrictions.

It is worth noting that although the volume of vehicles peaked at some 2 047 vehicles an hour on Thursday and Friday, the N1 did not experience a single fatal crash. This is a rare occurrence for this route, and it speaks to the effectiveness of our law enforcement deployment plan and improving conduct of motorists.

It is however concerning that one driver was arrested in Mokopane for attempting to bribe the National Traffic Police officers who had found him to be driving while drunk. He will soon be appearing in court on charges of bribery and corruption as well as drunk driving.

I wish to commend the officers who effected this arrest as they have shown that they are professionals with high levels of ethics, discipline and integrity. I wish that other officers can adopt this exemplary attitude to restore public confidence and respect on our traffic law enforcement sector.

Although our statistics of crashes and fatalities are still undergoing quality assurance and verification, early indications confirm that our road safety campaign is holding strong, and the public has responded positively to our messages.

Apart from a single major crash that claimed six lives in Mpumalanga on Thursday, the country has not experienced any other major crash where five or more people from one incident in first two days of the Easter peak travel period.

Despite a phenomenal increase in traffic volumes on the 17 and 18 April, our traffic law enforcement has been effective. They managed to stop and check 70 135 vehicles in the two days which marked the start of the Easter long weekend. A total of 21 607 drivers were issued with traffic fines while 512 were arrested for various offence including drunk driving, excessive speeding, violating operating permits and outstanding warrants of arrest. Six pedestrians were also arrested for jaywalking and endangering other road users.

The highest number (111) of drunk drivers were arrested in the Eastern Cape where a motorist with highest breath alcohol content was detained. The man was caught in Tsolo and his breath alcohol content was measured at 2.38mg per 1000 millilitres which is almost 10 times the permitted legal breath alcohol limit.

The success of our law enforcement operation is staggering when measured from the start of our road safety campaign on March 20.

A total of 782 397 vehicles were stopped and checked from that date to April 18 and 116 013 traffic fines were issued. This was achieved despite incessant rainfalls in the period which impacted on effective enforcement of the road traffic regulations.

A total of 3 514 drivers were arrested for various offences including drunk driving, excessive speeding, violation of operator permits, producing false documentation and for outstanding warrants of arrests. Eighty-nine (89) pedestrians were arrested in the entire period for jaywalking and endangering the lives of other road users.

A total of 2 225 unroadworthy vehicles were discontinued for various while 2 448 other vehicles were impounded for permit violations and disregarding provisions of the National Land Transportation Act.

We would like to commend our traffic law enforcement for this success and are confident that their actions have assisted in saving lives on the roads.

We also thank the civil society organizations, the private sector, churches, the taverners associations and public opinion influencers for lending their support to a multi-sectoral collaborative effort to raise public awareness and reduce fatalities on the roads.

The many voices speaking on one message is have reached many corners of our country and impact on the conduct of some road users. We hope that this effort will be sustained beyond the Easter period to have a long-lasting influence on the psyche of our road users.

Our country deserves to see a massive change in the attitude and behaviour of all our road users for us to be able to attain the goals we set for ourselves to reduce road fatalities by half in 2030. That deadline is approaching very fast, and we should spare no effort to drive our road initiatives towards the attainment of that goals. We should put all shoulders on the wheel and mobilise all sectors of society behind this noble objective.

I thank you all