

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

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## LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY WARNS AGAINST UNSAFE SCHOLAR TRANSPORT PRACTICES

The Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety has issued a strong warning to parents, guardians, and scholar transport operators to prioritise learner safety as schools reopen across the province.

This follows growing national concern over road crashes involving children, with road traffic injuries remaining one of the leading causes of death among children aged 5 to 14 years. In 2024 alone, children in this age group accounted for 5.61% of the 12 172 road fatalities recorded nationally, a situation that remains unacceptable and preventable.

The Department emphasises that scholar transport safety is a shared responsibility that begins at home and extends to operators, law enforcement, and communities.

Parents and guardians are urged to personally verify the legitimacy of scholar transport services before allowing children to board. This includes confirming that drivers are in possession of a valid Professional Driving Permit (PDP) and a current driver's licence and that their identity matches the documentation presented. Substitute drivers must meet the same legal requirements.

Equally important is the condition of the vehicle. Scholar transport vehicles must display a valid operating license, a current vehicle license disc, and be roadworthy.

Transporting learners in the back of bakkies, open trucks, or unapproved vehicles is illegal and life-threatening and will not be tolerated.

The Department reiterates that overloading remains a major risk factor in scholar transport crashes. Parents are encouraged to ensure that every learner has a seat and a functional seatbelt. Operators are further encouraged to have Passenger Liability Insurance in place to protect learners in the event of an incident.

Parents should have direct contact details for drivers, alternative emergency contacts, and information on the transport association to which the operator belongs. Professional operators must ensure transparency, accountability, and regular communication with parents regarding delays or route changes.

Law enforcement officers across Limpopo will continue intensified monitoring and enforcement of scholar transport regulations. Parents and community members are urged to report non-compliant or unsafe scholar transport operators to traffic authorities to ensure swift intervention.

The Department remains committed to protecting learners through strict enforcement, awareness campaigns, and collaboration with national road safety stakeholders.

Road safety starts before a child enters a vehicle. Parents must remain vigilant to ensure that every journey to and from school is safe.

Issued by Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety

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