

Address by MEC Violet Mathye
Launch of the 2025/26 Road Safety Campaign
Ga- Dikgale, Capricorn District Municipality
Thursday, 04 December 2025.

The Programme Director.

His Majesty Kgoshi Malesela Dikgale – Mokone.

The Executive Mayor of the Polokwane Municipality – Clr John Mpe.

The Head of Department - Mr Steven Matjena, and Officials from the Department.

The Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Services – Lt Gen Thembi Hadebe, and members of the SAPS present here.

The leadership of the South African National Taxi Council, the National Taxi Alliance and other fraternal partners of the Department.

The Leadership of the Community Police and Safety Forums

Esteemed guests and community members.

Members of the media.

I stand on the protocols that have already been established, as I pass my hearty salutations to all and sundry, who have joined this gathering to heighten our efforts towards the creation of a fatality free society.

Our gathering takes place on the soil of Bakone ba ga Dikgale, as Government is observing the 16 Days campaign against the abuse of women and children in the Republic.

As we canvass with our communities to heed this clarion call, we also feel obligated to encourage them to prioritize their own safety on our Provincial roads.

We have invited the media to this auspicious occasion, because we are resolute in amplifying our message of road safety.

Our resolve to attain a gender-based violence free society draws its directive from the Freedom Charter, which is our guiding principle and our yardstick.

We hold this event annually, because we are a government that is preoccupied with preserving the lives of its citizens.

We have come to launch this important occasion, because we are equally concerned with the spate of road fatalities that are occurring along the R81, affecting 'bana ba Kgoshi Dikgale'.

They are too many to count, and our view was to launch this programme here, to highlight its significance and severity.

Compatriots, the truth is, every road accident death is costing this economy, dearly.

With every fatality, government has to unleash its reactive machinery like ambulances with personnel, firefighters, Traffic Officers and the Police, who all come at a cost to the taxpayers.

The funds that the Road Accident Fund disburse, to compensate the families of the victims of road accidents, is also a preventable cost to the state.

Our biggest concern with road fatalities is that they remain preventable. The majority of the lives lost on our roads belong to individuals who are economically active and are heads of families.

We have invited Moshate wa Bakone to this occasion, because we acknowledge the role that is played by the institution of traditional leadership, in instilling discipline and order in our society.

We are also joined in this gathering, by members of the South African Police Services, under the stewardship of the hardworking Lt-General Thembi Hadebe, who has been at the forefront of crime combating expeditions in the Province.

We have also brought to this occasion, their new fleet to showcase our commitment towards the fight against crime.

We are making gradual in-roads in our endeavor to address the unavailability of vehicles in our various police stations in the Province.

This positive addition will ensure that our Police Officers are able to respond quicker and timeously when our communities are in distress.

We are also unveiling a total of 53 vehicles, which will be used by our traffic officers to ensure heightened visibility on our roads.

Our intention was to bring the Premier, Dr Phophi Ramathuba here today, to demonstrate our seriousness in this objective of creating safer roads. But because of other pressing commitments, she sent an apology late yesterday.

However, she pleaded that we should convey this straight-forward message to you, that the task of making our roads safer, is the ultimate responsibility of every road user.

Our theme for this year's Road Safety Campaign, says, 'it starts with me'. It demonstrates Government's desire to place road safety in the hands of motorists and pedestrians.

It is a shared responsibility that requires all of us, to play our part and not rely on anyone to do it for us.

While Government has the utmost responsibility to ensure road safety, motorists have a greater responsibility to guarantee that their vehicles are roadworthy, they drive within the speed limit, they take enough rest and do not drink and drive.

We are going to show little mercy to road users who commit flagrant transgressions on our roads during this festive period.

We will deploy a fully-fledged battalion of traffic officers on all the major arterial roads, from Sekhukhune to Vuwani in the Collins Chabane Municipality.

Our engagements with the leadership of our organized labour unions, indicate that we will get the commitment of every officer, to go beyond the call-of-duty to ensure road safety during the Festive season.

We will make concerted efforts to make sure that anyone who is found to be hauling an overloaded trailer on our roads, will feel the wrath of the might of the law.

We are still reeling with shock, from the bus accident that killed over 40 foreign nationals, as a result of overloading in Makhado a few months ago.

We are also making a clarion call to our partners within the public transport sector, to drive with extra caution at all material times.

We have all seen the far-reaching effects of accidents that involve multiple-passenger carrying vehicles, like buses and taxis.

In recent days, we have experienced torrential rains and heavy flooding, which have caused a number of accidents on our roads.

We continue to plead with our motorists to drive safely, especially during rainy periods.

As I conclude, I want to call upon our road users to take a leaf out of what transpired during the Easter Long weekend, when we recorded zero fatalities.

We will adopt a zero-tolerance approach, on everyone who confuses our public roads to racecourses.

Anyone who will be found to be breaking traffic rules, during this Festive period, will be used as an example to send a strong message to other road users.

We will be conducting countless operations during this period, with the view of enhancing our visibility on the road.

As I conclude, I want to wish everyone of you a happy and a blessed festive period, characterized by joy and safety.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

I thank you.