



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

MEDIA STATEMENT

Friday, 28 March 2025

ROAD USERS URGED TO PRIORITISE CHILD SAFETY DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

As the school holidays begin, the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety urges all road users to exercise extra caution and prioritise the safety of children. As families take to the roads for vacations and other travel, let us all remain vigilant and take every precaution to safeguard the young lives entrusted to us.

The loss of even one young life on our roads is one too many. As we observe Human Rights Month, we are reminded that every child has the inherent right to life, as enshrined in our Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that our children are protected from harm.

The alarming statistics from the Road Traffic Management Corporation's 2023 State of Road Safety Report highlight the urgent need for action. In 2023, a total of 1,699 young people between the ages of 5 and 19 lost their lives on our roads. This staggering number serves as a stark reminder of the importance of prioritising child safety.

To reduce the risks associated with increased traffic volumes, law enforcement officers will intensify their efforts to combat speeding, drunken driving and ensure compliance with road safety regulations. They will maintain visible patrols on routes expected to experience increased traffic and continue with regular roadblocks and vehicle checks to ensure compliance with safety standards.

We urge parents and caregivers to take simple yet crucial steps to safeguard their children's road safety. By following these precautions, you can significantly reduce the risk of your child being involved in a road accident:

- Ensure children buckle up whenever they enter a vehicle.
- Avoid driving distractions, such as using cell phones.
- Never speed or drive under the influence of intoxicating substances.
- Teach children basic road safety rules, including holding an adult's hand when crossing and following the "stop, look left, right, and left again" rule.

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Drivers also have a critical role in ensuring child safety on our roads. Please exercise extreme caution when driving through residential areas, especially where children often play or walk. This means slowing down and observing speed limits to avoid knocking down children who may unexpectedly cross the road. Drivers should also be patient and courteous to pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users.

Through collective effort and a shared commitment to road safety, we can significantly reduce the risk of child involvement in road accidents and ensure that our children arrive safely at their intended destinations.

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