

MEDIA RELEASE	Road-safety statistics: PSA calls on Minister of Transport to engage on long-lasting solutions
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) remains apprehensive about the rate of accidents and fatalities on South African roads after 1 172 accidents and 1 427 deaths were recorded during the 2025/26 festive season.

The 5% decline in deaths is not consoling as one person dying on the roads is one too many. The Minister of Transport has correctly described the national road-death toll as a reason for national shame. The announcement of festive season road-safety statistics revealed the concerning fact that of some 173 695 drivers tested for alcohol, 8 561 tested positive. This is a shocking 144% increase from last season, showing high levels of disregards for road safety and the law. Drunk driving was highlighted as one of the major causes of fatal crashes, which necessitates stronger policy response. Subsequently, the Minister indicated an urgent need to review the outdated law that was formulated nearly 30 years ago as government should move towards a zero-tolerance policy. The current legal alcohol limits of 0.05g/100ml for general drivers and 0.02/100ml for professional drivers will be scrapped.

The PSA supports the review of the law as South Africa cannot afford to have drunk drivers killing people. The PSA further commends the South African National Taxi Council's initiative to install breathalyser devices in taxi vehicles, preventing a driver who has consumed alcohol from starting the vehicle, to be implemented before the Easter period.

The PSA supports all legitimate efforts aimed at reducing road carnage although broader consultations remain necessary. Motor vehicle manufacturers must also be included in the discussion to investigate the possibility of installing features for vehicles to assess the state of the driver to detect alcohol and fatigue levels. Technology has advanced and should be used to the benefit of the country. The reliability and integrity of breathalyser technology remains critical. There is a need to ensure that this will not be tampered with, and margins of error in testing must be eliminated.

The PSA calls on the Minister to engage labour, the public transport industry, motor manufacturers, insurance companies, and other stakeholders to find long-lasting solutions to ensure that roads are safe throughout the year.

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