

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA concerned about Department of Transport's 2024 festive season road accident report
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is saddened by the loss of over 1 500 lives on South African roads following 1 234 vehicle crashes during the festive season as reported by the Department of Transport.

This is an increase of 5.3% in fatalities compared to the previous year. It is disturbing that six provinces recorded an increase in fatalities. Pedestrians were recorded as most victims of reported accidents. The major contributors of such fatal accidents are fatigue, drunk driving, excessive speed, and the use of cell phones.

South Africa will not see the reduction of fatal accidents if road users do not change their attitude and behaviour. The PSA is deeply concerned about the increasing trend of fatal accidents during festive seasons. Apart from lives being lost, many survivors are left with serious injuries and even permanent disability. Road accidents have serious implications on the healthcare system and the economy of the country. The economic cost is enormous. The health service crippled by a shortage of healthcare professionals is struggling to cope with the high number of accident victims. Road fatalities are exceptionally high. Government must increase the number of law enforcement officials for stop-and-search operations across all major roads. Training of law enforcement officers must be enhanced to equip them in coping with challenges experienced on the roads.

The PSA urges government to implement strategic interventions and enforce the rule of law on roads. Hefty fines and jail sentences must be imposed for those who break the laws of the road. There should be zero-tolerance for contravention of the laws of the road and government must invest in quality road infrastructure and proper road designs to save lives. Awareness campaigns must be conducted throughout the year and not only during peak seasons. Government must implement international best practices and comprehensive approaches to achieve zero road fatalities.

The PSA commends Traffic Officers, healthcare professionals and the Police for their dedication and efforts during the festive season. Their tirelessly efforts to save the lives of citizens are applauded.

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