



***Easter 2010
Road Traffic Report***

Wednesday, 07 April 2010

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1. Introduction

The 2010 Easter weekend commenced on Thursday, 1 April and ended on Monday, 5 April 2010. Due to traffic volumes increasing on the main arterial routes during the Easter weekend, there is an increased risk of crashes on these roads. The largest increase in traffic was experienced on the main routes leading out of Gauteng, with the N1 north and south, the N3 towards KwaZulu-Natal and the N4 towards Mpumalanga having the highest traffic volumes.

Apart from people taking short holidays mostly to the coastal areas, migrant workers also go home to their families and members of the Zion Christian Church visit Moria City in Limpopo for their annual pilgrimage. This year, the Cape Town International Jazz Festival and the Telkom Knockout Semi-Final at the Moses Mabhida Stadium in Durban were also hosted.

During peak traffic volume periods such as Easter, the law enforcement fraternity has its hands full.

As part of its Rolling Enforcement Plan, the Road Traffic Management Corporation, in collaboration with provincial and municipal traffic departments, embarked on a national traffic law enforcement drive before Easter, dubbed "Operation Clean Sweep", which ran from 1st to 31st March 2010.

The aim of this operation was to serve as a pre-Easter clean up and concentrated on un-roadworthy private and public transport vehicles. Special attention was also given to preventing crashes at hazardous locations, thus attempting to curb the fatality rate on the roads.

Roadblocks, roadside checks, patrols and awareness campaigns were conducted by various authorities during the month of March in preparation for the Easter weekend. Vehicles were stopped, searched and checked with specific emphasis placed on illegal and un-roadworthy vehicles, driver fitness as well as crime-related issues in order to sweep killer offenders off the roads before the Easter weekend.

The South African Police record the fatal crashes and fatalities, and thereafter send such information to the Road Traffic Management Corporation who capture, process and verify all the statistics and compile a consolidated report.

2. Traffic Volumes

Traffic volumes on the main routes over Easter for the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 are reflected in the table below.

Table 1:Traffic Volumes over Easter						
Route	Site Name	2008	2009	2010	Change 2009-10	% change 2009-10
N1	Carousel plaza	101,152	126,279	136,450	10,171	8.05
N1	Kranskop plaza	75,756	105,469	126,419	20,950	19.86
N1	Huguenot plaza	61,762	74,850	75,318	468	0.63
N1	Verkeerdevlei	43,594	45,591	51,306	5,715	12.54
N2	Groot Brak	32,103	54,929	68,300	13,371	24.34
N3	Tugela plaza	64,296	85,577	88,626	3,049	3.56
N4	Middelburg	90,632	118,859	123,770	4,911	4.13
Total		469,295	611,554	670,189	58,635	9.59

There was an overall increase in traffic volumes at seven counting stations on national roads. The increase was from 611,554 vehicles in 2009 to 670,189 vehicles during 2010. The average increase was about 58,635 vehicles (9,59%).

On a percentage basis, the largest increase was recorded at Groot Brak in the Western Cape, where the increase was in the order of 24,34%. On the N1 north, the increase was 19.86% at the Kranskop Toll Plaza.

3. Fatal Crash Report

During the Easter period, as at 7 April 2010, 70 fatal crashes were recorded with 105 fatalities.

3.1 Fatalities per Road Users

Road User Group	Number of Fatalities
Driver	28
Passenger	48
Pedestrian	29
Total	105

4. Major Fatal Crashes over Easter

Six (6) major fatal crashes were reported during Easter 2010, resulting in thirty two (32) fatalities.

Eight (8) people were killed, nine (9) seriously injured and two slightly injured in a head-on collision between a SAP LDV and a minibus, between Moloto and KwaMhlanga on the R573 near Pretoria.

On the N3 north, between Warden and Roadside Police Station, in the Free State, a minibus-taxi and panel-van collided. Six (6) people were killed and six (6) were seriously injured.

Six (6) fatalities were recorded and one (1) injury in a crash in the Eastern Cape, between Pearston & Somerset East on the R63, where a Nissan Sentra lost control and overturned.

In another crash in the Eastern Cape, on the R61 between Aberdeen & Beaufort West, three vehicles collided, where five (5) fatalities were recorded with seven (7) serious injuries.

In another crash in the Free State, on the N3 between Warden and Roadside Police Station, six (6) fatalities and one (1) injury were recorded when two LMVs collided.

The Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Molefi Sefularo, was killed on the N4 between Pretoria and Hartbeespoortdam in a single vehicle crash.

5. Contributory Factors to Fatal Crashes

Three main factors contribute to road crashes. These are human, vehicle and road environment factors.

Of the six (6) major crashes that occurred over the Easter period, tyre burst was reported as a contributory factor in three (3) crashes, poor visibility in two crashes and poor visibility in one crash.

The following are factors per category that normally contribute to crashes.

Human factors:

- Speed too high for circumstances
- Pedestrian Jay Walking
- Overtook when unlawful / unsafe
- U-turn
- Intoxicated driver

Vehicle factors:

- Tyre burst prior to crash
- Faulty steering
- Faulty brakes

Road factors:

- Sharp bend
- Poor condition of road surface
- Poor visibility
- Road surface slippery/wet

6. Law Enforcement

The RTMC, with the cooperation and participation of the various provincial and metropolitan road traffic law enforcement authorities, developed a Rolling Enforcement Plan. This year-round plan attempts to harmonize road traffic enforcement operations by focusing on monthly themes. The theme for March 2010 was “Operation Clean Sweep”, where the emphasis was on driver and vehicle fitness, with dedicated enforcement on public passenger transport vehicles. A target of stopping and checking 500 000 vehicles, nationwide, was set.

During “Operation Clean Sweep” in March, the following results were achieved:

- A total of 226 roadblocks were mounted around the country by provincial traffic and metropolitan police departments.
- More than 680 000 vehicles were stopped and checked, and 126 768 notices were issued for various driver and vehicle fitness offences.
- More than 1 400 vehicles were suspended for being un-roadworthy, of which just over a thousand (1 000) were public transport vehicles.
- Two thousand one hundred and six (2106) motorists were arrested, of which 1 498 were for drunk driving, 164 for reckless and negligent driving, 48 for excessive speed, 130 for overloading and 266 for other offences including false documentation, resisting arrest, obstruction of justice, etc.

During the five-day Easter weekend commencing Thursday (1 April) to Monday (5 April 2010), the following significant enforcement results were achieved:

- A total of 72 roadblocks were mounted around the country by provincial traffic and metropolitan police departments.
- More than 120 000 vehicles were stopped and checked, where 32 692 notices were issued for a variety of driver and vehicle fitness offences.

- More than 215 vehicles were suspended for being un-roadworthy, of which 146 were public transport vehicles.
- Six hundred and fifty four (654) motorists were arrested, of which 554 were for drunk driving, 29 for reckless and negligent driving, 11 for excessive speed, 5 for overloading and 55 for other offences including false documentation, resisting arrest, obstruction of justice, etc.
