



ONTRACK

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER | ISSUE # 10 DECEMBER 2016



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Decide to do the right thing

If you are caught driving under the influence of alcohol, you could spend time in prison, and have to pay legal fees and fines. You could even lose your driver's licence, your job, or your life.

Alcohol plays a causal role in a large proportion of fatal crashes in the Western Cape. Some motorists continue to heedlessly risk their lives and the lives of others by driving under the influence. In the process they destroy taxpayer-funded infrastructure and take policing resources away from attending to other crimes.

On 1 August 2016, evidentiary breath alcohol testing (EBAT) was reintroduced, making it

possible to quickly institute legal proceedings against people driving under the influence of alcohol. With the old system, lengthy delays in obtaining the results of blood tests meant that persons accused of driving under the influence faced a long period of legal uncertainty. The immediate release of the innocent and the swift conclusion of cases against the guilty are the main reasons why EBAT has improved road safety all over the world.

Are you still drinking and driving? Think again. Make another plan, and decide to do the right thing. We can all make driving under the influence a thing of the past.

REPORT BAD DRIVING

Road users across the spectrum see a lack of respect and courtesy among certain drivers. Taxi drivers are most often mentioned in this regard, but other drivers as well as pedestrians are often just as guilty of reckless behaviour. We encourage members of the public to call our Emergency Traffic Control Centre on 021 812 4581 to report bad driving. This will help our traffic authorities to enforce the law. Alternatively, report incidents on our Safely Home Reporter at

<http://www.safelyhome.westerncape.gov.za/reporter>

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 @WCGovTPW

Please send us your feedback and suggestions.

NEW VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT FACILITY IN VREDENBURG

A R5,7 million vehicle impoundment facility built by the Department of Transport and Public Works (DTPW) in Vredenburg will be taken into service soon. The facility will enable authorities to more easily impound vehicles for serious transgressions of traffic laws.

The facility reached practical completion in December 2015, but factors outside the Department's control meant it could not be taken into service immediately. The nearest operating impoundment facility is currently in Ndabeni in Cape Town.

The facility comprises an area of approximately 3 400 m that is big enough to hold nine busses and 33 other motor vehicles. The facility is surrounded by a security wall with an electrical fence on top, and equipped with closed circuit television cameras and security lights. A new guard house and a new office have been built inside an existing building on the site.

In its infrastructure projects, DTPW seeks to give effect to the aims of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). This includes short-term employment and skills training opportunities. A total of 36 local people worked on the project during construction.



AFRIKAANS SUMMARY

'n R5,7 miljoen voertuigskut wat deur die Departement van Vervoer en Openbare Werke in Vredenburg gebou is, gaan binnekort in bedryf wees. Hierdie fasiliteit sal dit vir owerhede makliker maak om beslag te lê op voertuie wat verkeerswette oortree. Die fasiliteit beslaan 'n area van ongeveer 3 400 m, dit is groot genoeg om nege busse en 33 ander motorvoertuie te hou.

ISIXHOSA SUMMARY

Iziko lokugcina izithuthi ezithinjiweyo elixabisa izigidi ezi-R5,7 elakhiwe liSebe lezoThutho leNtshona Koloni eVredenburg liza kuqala ukusebenza kungekudala. Eli ziko liza kuwenza lula umsebenzi wabasemagunyeni wokuthimba izithuthi ezinamatyala amakhulu olwaphulo-mthetho. Eli ziko litsha linomhlaba omalunga nama- 3 400 eemitha ezilenza libe likhulu ngokwaneleyo ukuba lingangena iibhasi ezilithoba neemoto ezingama-33.

YOUNG ACHIEVER LOVES BEING A TRAFFIC OFFICER

Yolandi Snyders (30) from Paarl was one of 30 traffic officers to join Western Cape Provincial Traffic Services this year. She successfully completed the 12-month Further Education and Training Certificate: Road Traffic Law Enforcement at Gene Louw Traffic College in Brackenfell, Cape Town.

Working for the past three months at the N1 Joostenberg Vlakte weighbridge has been an amazing experience, according to Snyders. "I've loved engaging with road users and urge them to always display safe road safety habits", she said. "We have a vital role to play in enforcing the law, being visible at all times, and treating road users with respect and courtesy."

Snyders scooped a number of awards at the graduation ceremony. She won the Road Transportation Unit Standard Top Achiever and Legal Unit Standards Top Achiever awards. Snyders was also recognised as best overall achiever, with a final mark of 86,5%. She says she still has a lot to learn, and hopes to become a training facilitator at the College one day.



TRAFFIC CHIEF'S COMMITMENT TO ROAD SAFETY



"A career in traffic is worthwhile. We are not here only to issue fines and harass errant drivers. We are human beings in a blue uniform committed to promoting road safety and enforcing traffic laws, because that is what the public expects."

Nolubabalo Sobekwa, Brackenfell Traffic Centre Chief, is responsible for a staff complement of 80, the N1, the Joostenberg Vlakte and N7 Vissershok weighbridges, and a 24/7 radio control room serving the whole province.

CONSIDER A CAREER IN TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Gene Louw Traffic College offers 12-month traffic officer's training courses for young people who want to make our roads safer. The College has a well-deserved reputation for producing dedicated and well-trained traffic officers. Courses usually start in July every year. Trainees must be employed in a vacant traffic officer post at a local authority or provincial administration. Trainees get some practical experience during the December and Easter holiday periods.

WHAT?

Accredited traffic officer's training course

WHERE?

Gene Louw Traffic College, Brackenfell, Cape Town

QUALIFICATION

Further Education and Training Certificate (FETC) in Road Traffic Law Enforcement

KEY TRAINING AREAS

- Firearm competency training
- Training in applicable legislation, e.g. the National Road Traffic Act and the Criminal Procedure Act
- First aid training
- Fire-fighting training

REQUIREMENTS

- Appointment in a vacant traffic officer post in a local authority or provincial administration
- No criminal record
- Senior certificate or equivalent
- Code B driving licence
- Able to perform strenuous physical exercises
- Not older than 35 years
- Able to undergo firearm training

MORE INFORMATION

www.westerncape.gov.za/gene-louw-traffic-college

T: 021 983 1500.

FREE LEARNER'S LICENCE COURSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Department of Transport and Public Works helps Western Cape youth to obtain their learner's licences. If you have enough young people and a suitable training venue, contact us to arrange a training event in your community.



WHAT?

Learner's licence training courses for young people



TARGET GROUP

High school learners and unemployed youth 17 years and older



COURSE CONTENT

- Applying the K53 defensive driving system
- Knowing the rules of the road
- Being able to control a vehicle
- Being a safe and responsible driver



FORMAT

Half-day sessions (by arrangement)



LANGUAGE

English, Afrikaans or isiXhosa (by arrangement)



GROUP SIZE

Minimum of 20 participants, maximum of 50



VENUE

To be arranged by event organiser

At the end of the session, participants write a test to help them prepare for their actual learner's licence tests at the local traffic authority. Results of this mock test are available immediately.

Contact our Road Safety Management component to arrange a training event.

E: David.Frost@westerncape.gov.za

T: 021 483 9671

Providing high-quality learner's licence training to make our roads safer, **BETTER TOGETHER.**

SCHOLAR PATROLS ENHANCE LEARNER SAFETY

Scholar patrol officers at Western Cape schools regulate traffic, slow down vehicles, and facilitate safe crossing. They also instil awareness among young pedestrians of the importance of road safety, and the need to cross in safe places.

We actively support scholar patrols in targeted schools across the province. The programme encourages 12- and 13-year olds to become safety patrol officers and help other learners to safely cross busy roads on the way to school.

“We actively support scholar patrols in targeted schools across the province.”

When our needs assessments identify infrastructural hazards to road safety, we work with municipalities to remedy these shortcomings. Hazards such as a lack of adequate road signs and markings can then quickly be addressed to make roads safer for pedestrians.

For more information, contact our road safety management component on 021 483 9671 or email David.Frost@westerncape.gov.za.



LEARNER TRANSPORT SAFETY IS IMPORTANT

Our traffic officers take learner transport operations at Western Cape schools seriously. These efforts help to ensure that learners travel safely to and from school, and that drivers comply with legal vehicle safety requirements.

Officers visited several schools this year and checked that vehicles are safe and suitable for this important function. Operators transporting learners are required to comply with the provisions of the National Land Transport Act. Their vehicles must be roadworthy, and they must have all the necessary permits to transport learners.

Operators transporting learners are required to comply with the provisions of the National Land Transport Act.

Parents and caregivers have a role to play. They should take every practical step to ensure that private operators transporting

their children always use safe, roadworthy and reliable vehicles, and that the drivers have the legal authority to transport learners. Please report any learner road safety concerns to your school governing body.



BUCKLE UP




IT TAKES A SECOND TO SAVE A LIFE.

<http://safelyhome.westerncape.gov.za>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Spare a thought for those emergency personnel – traffic, police, medical services, and all the others – working tirelessly over the holidays to keep us safe. We owe them a sincere vote of thanks for all they do throughout the year.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:  @WCGovTPWP under the hashtag #BoozeFreeRoads

VISION

To lead in the delivery of government infrastructure and related services.

MISSION

The Department of Transport and Public Works delivers infrastructure and services to promote socio-economic outcomes and safe, empowered and connected communities.

EDITORIAL TEAM

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ROAD SAFETY IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



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Please send us your feedback and suggestions.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

City of Cape Town helpline - 021 480 7700

Western Cape Traffic Management Centre - 021 812 4581 or 112 from a cellphone

Police - 10111