



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DIRECTORATE:

Private Bag X9043, PIETERMARITZBURG, 3200

Communication

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House, 172 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

Tel: 033 355 8624

Fax: 033 355 8632

Media Advisory

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ALCOHOL OPERATION NABBED 14 DRIVERS WHO WERE DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL IN PIETERMARITZBURG OVER THE WEEKEND

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is intensifying the enforcement of law and order on provincial roads, with traffic officials arresting more than 14 drivers for driving under the influence of alcohol this weekend.

The operation, which was led by the Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI), was conducted in the Pietermaritzburg Central Business District (CBD).

The highest drunk driver tested over 1.26mg, which is 5 times over the legal limit.

She tried to run away but police gave chase, and she was arrested.

Multi-disciplinary operations are being rolled out through the province and are being implemented jointly with other agencies, including the South African Police Services, Municipal Traffic, and National Traffic Police.

The Department is currently implementing the Festive Season Safety Plan, which is targeting strategic areas to reduce the number of crashes and fatalities during the festive season and beyond.

As part of the on-going operations, traffic officials are focusing on stop and search, screening of vehicles, screening of drivers suspected to be driving under the influence, checking the condition of the vehicles, and checking of driver documentations.

The Department has also deployed technology to improve the outputs in addressing traffic violations.

Traffic police are now using what is called Personal Operating Device (POD).

This new device is a move from the manual system to an electronic system, wherein all data is centralized and is improving efficiency in dealing with traffic violations and policing on the road.

Since the start of the intensified operational plan on the 1st of December 2023 to date the following has been achieved on the road:

241 motorists have been charged for exceeding the speed limit.

More than 18 motorists arrested for drinking and driving.

73 drivers of public transport vehicles arrested for operating permits.

12 drivers of minibus taxis charged for overloading.

54 drivers charged for not being in possession of a valid driver's licence.



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26 drivers charged for overtaking on a solid barrier line.

81 drivers charged for overloading of goods.

With the long weekend approaching, KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Sipho Hlomuka has issued a clear directive to traffic officials to clamp down on all drivers driving under the influence of alcohol.

"The arrests in Pietermaritzburg over the weekend are encouraging. Throughout the province, we have directed those similar operations be intensified in CBD's and residential areas. We have directed that all vehicles be stopped and searched to ensure compliance with the law. Ahead of the long weekend, we will be tough to all those who are violating the traffic regulations. Working with the police, we will also be paying attention to illegal taverns. We will also be focusing on ensuring that our public transport complies with all road regulations."

"As government we have recruited more traffic officers to improve the safety of road users, however we appeal to motorists to take responsibility and work with us," said Hlomuka.

Hlomuka also further cautioned motorists to plan their travel arrangements considering the massive construction on major roads in the province, including the N3 between Pietermaritzburg and Durban, EB Cloute in Durban and N2 in between KwaMashu off ramp and uMdloti.

Ends.