

Snowfall along the N3 | Media briefing at 15h00 on Road Safety Measures

Media Invite and Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma

29 September 2024

Van Reenen Pass, N3: In view of snow forecast map showing light snowfall from Monday to Tuesday, we will be doing the final test of our road safety plans.

We must hasten to point out that we regard the light snowfall as extremely dangerous and fatal. We state this because it greases up the roads, which leads to road accidents.

Because the South African drivers are not trained to drive in the snow, we urge motorists to reschedule or postpone their journeys in anticipation of any eventuality.

We reiterate our position that prevention is better than cure.

Today I will join our highly efficient team on the ground.

Importantly, around 15h00, we will interact and update members of the media at our Satellite Base located at the top of the N3 Van Reenen Pass and R617 Underberg.

We wish to indicate that the Road Traffic Inspectorate, in conjunction with the N3 Toll Concession, Free State Provincial Traffic and National Traffic Police, will ensure immediate assistance to stranded motorists. The team will also ensure the diversion of traffic should the weather conditions deteriorate.

Visibility of Traffic Officers and possible closures

- N3 Van Reenen Pass to Tugela Plaza.
- Tugela Plaza to Bergville;
- N11 Bergville interchange to Volksrust;
- Estcourt to Mooi Toll Plaza;
- Mooi Toll Plaza to Howick;
- R617 Underberg to Swartberg;
- R617 Swartberg to Kokstad;
- R74 Muden Road;
- R33 Pomeroy to Dundee
- Montrose to Van Reenen Village.

Salt and Brine Application

- This will be applied to the roads as part of reducing the adhesion of snow and ice to road surfaces.

Drivers of Motor graders: Transport Infrastructure Unit

The team has been sharpened to respond with speed and a sense of urgency to remove any snow before accumulating on the road. Graders and a TLB are stationed on identified routes to ensure that our response is faster.

We wish to express our appreciation to the SA Weather Services, an authoritative voice on weather-related matters, for the guidance.

We continue to get updates.

We also rely on the excellent work of SANRAL, N3 Toll Concession, Free State Provincial Traffic Inspectorate, and the Disaster Management Committee Co-operatives co-ordinated by the Department of Co-operatives Governance and Traditional Affairs.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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