



MEDIA STATEMENT

To : All Media
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Attention : News Editors/ Transport Reporter/ PR WIRES

North West Roadblock to highlight the safety of children in motor vehicles

The National Traffic Police are set to conduct a law enforcement operation in Klerksdorp tomorrow focusing on educating the public on the need to put children on child restraints or seatbelts whenever travelling on public roads.

The operation will involve the South African Police Service, the provincial traffic department, the Cross Border Transportation Agency and other law enforcement agencies including emergency medical services. The law requiring children to be placed on child restraints or car seats came into effect on May 1 this year.

The law states that the driver of a motor vehicle operated on a public road shall ensure that a child seated on a seat of the motor vehicle uses an appropriate child restraint or wears the seatbelt if a child restraint is not available. The law places an obligation on the driver of a vehicle to ensure that an infant travelling in a vehicle is seated on an appropriate child restraint. Since the promulgation of the law, provincial traffic departments have been engaging with magistrates to determine an appropriate fine to impose on motorists who fail to obey the law.

Drivers can now expect fines ranging from R250 to R500 for failing to put children on car seats or child restraints.

According to the Child Accident Prevention Foundation (CAPFSA) national statistics indicate that 84% of children travel in cars without any car seat restraint or seat belt discipline. Each year, thousands of children are killed, permanently injured or suffer life-long disabilities as a result of car accidents.

The Automobile Association says that child restraints reduce the risk of death in passenger cars by 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers.

Ends

Report bad driving - 0861 400 800

Issued by the - Road Traffic Management Corporation

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