



Road Traffic
Management Corporation

Physical Address

Centurion Gate Business Park
Block A To D, 146 Akkerboom Street
Zwartkop, Centurion, 0157

Email: Info@rtmc.co.za

Tel: (012) 999-5200

Fax: (012) 991-0371

Postal Address

Private Bag X147
Pretoria, 0001

The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC)
is an Agency of The Department of Transport and a
Member of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration

PRESS RELEASE

To : All News Editors

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Attention : News Reporters / Transport Reporters /Newswires

TRAFFIC ADVISORY: MOTORISTS TRAVELING TO THE COMRADES MARATHON WARNED ABOUT CONSTRUCTION AND WINTER HAZARDS

CENTURION – With the 99th running of the historic Comrades Marathon set for Sunday, 14 June 2026, transport authorities are issuing an urgent safety advisory to all motorists, runners, and spectators travelling along the major arterial routes between Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

This year's race is an "Up Run," starting at the Durban City Hall and finishing at the Scottsville Racecourse in Pietermaritzburg. Due to heavy infrastructural upgrades and seasonal winter hazards, severe traffic congestion and volatile driving conditions are anticipated. Motorists are urged to plan, adjust driving behaviour, and remain highly vigilant.

1. Ongoing Roadworks and Construction Bottlenecks

Significant, ongoing road upgrades and construction projects are currently active in and around the Pietermaritzburg area and along key sections of the N3 corridor. Following severe traffic disruptions during the previous "Up Run," law enforcement and race organizers have established integrated traffic mitigation plans. However, delays are still highly likely.

Lane Reductions: Various construction zones have restricted lanes, resulting in sudden bottlenecks. Motorists must strictly adhere to temporary speed limits and signage. Construction is taking place on the following zones: between Heidelberg and Villiers, Warden and Harrismith, Estcourt and Nottingham Road, Paradise Valley and Westville viaduct.

Finish Line Bottlenecks: Expect major delays around the Scottsville Racecourse precinct in Pietermaritzburg.

2. Critical Winter Road Safety Hazards

As South Africa enters peak winter, the KwaZulu-Natal interior presents distinct seasonal hazards that demand absolute driver focus:

Dense Winter Fog: The areas around Van Reenen Pass, Fields Hill, Botha's Hill, and Hilton are prone to thick, sudden blanket fog during the early morning and late evening hours. Reduce speed, increase following distances, and utilize fog lights (do not use high beams).

Black Ice: With temperatures dipping sharply overnight, early-morning travellers should watch out for patches of black ice on the asphalt, particularly in shaded mountain passes and on bridges.

Fatigue Management: Many spectators and support crews will be driving after minimal sleep. Authorities advise stopping every two hours or 200 kilometers to combat driver fatigue.

3. General Race Day Road Closures

The Comrades Marathon route will be systematically closed to all vehicular traffic on Sunday, 14 June 2026, from early morning until the 12-hour cut-off in the evening.

Alternative routes, such as the N3 highway, will remain open for through-traffic but will experience heavy volumes.

Officials strongly recommend that spectators utilize designated shuttle services, carpool where possible, and arrive at their destination several hours ahead of schedule.

A Message from Law Enforcement:

"We want this 99th edition of the Comrades Marathon to be safe for everyone. The National Traffic Police, provincial officers, SAPS, and municipal authorities will be deployed heavily across the network to enforce compliance. We ask for patience, tolerance, and extreme caution from all road users. Do not park illegally along the N3 or obstruct emergency lanes," said RTMC spokesperson Simon Zwane

Motorists are encouraged to monitor live traffic apps, local radio stations, and official Comrades Marathon social media channels for real-time traffic updates and route adjustments.

ENDS.

ISSUED BY: THE ROAD TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (RTMC)

Contact person: Simon Zwane: Chief Communication Officer

(082) 551-9892