

THE ROLE OF TRAFFIC POLICE IN BRINGING ABOUT A CHANGE IN THE CARNAGE ON OUR ROADS.

**Mr. Program Director
Fellow MMCs,
Honored guests,
Traffic officers & officials
Ladies and gentlemen,**

03rd October 2007

Why, then, are we gathered here today? What do we hope to achieve?

We have gathered here to salute our traffic officers who have recently obtained their traffic diplomas at Bockenhoukloof College and Johannesburg Metro Police Institute. Your passing out today, confirms our conviction in fighting lawlessness in our roads. We are excited of the fact that we are increasing our visible traffic policing with skilled personnel. This enhances our chances of improving our effectiveness in combating crime, ensuring safety in homes and also improving our safety in traveling. This come at the time when we heading towards December holidays, and this augurs well in improving turnaround time towards road related emergency call ups.

Over the last few years, with the ever-increasing traffic volumes becoming a reality of life, traffic policing has become the scapegoat for the ills of everyday traffic congestion blues and the paramount reason for why so many people die on our roads, particularly during the Festive and Easter holiday periods.

Our response to this challenge is that the effectiveness of the traffic control function is going to be improved substantially."

This is our point of departure today!!

Our role is to provide effective traffic policing. This is going to be realized thorough analysis of all the critical issues involving traffic policing, provision of new traffic fleet, provision of 24 hour service to the community, as well the speedy prosecution of offenders by our municipal court.

The lack of law enforcement or the low intensity of law enforcement in certain areas during the night and over weekends is gradually becoming a thing of the past.

More roadblocks are going to be conducted regularly on routes and corridors with a high number of accidents in order to improve control of driver and vehicle fitness aspects such as driving licenses; driving under the influence of alcohol and vehicle issues such as lights; visibility from the rear; tyres; and general roadworthiness, etc.

Policing of critical moving offences that lead to fatal accidents, such as illegal and unsafe overtaking; ignoring of stop streets and disregard for red traffic lights and speed control of all vehicle types are going to be given priority in order to reduce fatality levels in Emfuleni. Zero tolerance to bad driving and road rage.

Standards and benchmarks for performance measurement should be set by our traffic officers and adequate supervision must be carried out in order to ensure that set targets are met. This is going to be enforced without fear and favor!

We are well aware of the restraints holding us back due to acts of ill discipline, corruption and bribery committed by some of our personnel. We cannot allow this continue unabated. We are going to ruthlessly deal with these demeanors. We also need community and motorists to report such matters as it will help to improve our services to you. Bribery and corruption is our number one enemy.

I wish you a fruitful and a wonderful working relationship.

I look forward to receiving your contribution that will take us all to the higher level of professionalism and effectiveness in traffic enforcement, that we all are striving for.

I thank you.