



**Road Traffic Management Corporation  
(RTMC)**

**Preliminary  
Report on Road Accidents  
during the  
2006 Easter Weekend  
and the  
Freedom Day & Workers Day Long Weekend**



**2 May 2006**

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## 1. Introduction

The Easter weekend 2006 started off the same as other Easter weekends with the difference that through the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), the national Law Enforcement Technical Committee, which comprises the operational heads of the nine provincial and six metropolitan traffic police authorities, a number of important objectives have been set in order to address the poor road discipline in the country. This was done through operation Emisa. The primary aim of "Operation Emisa" is to stop and check 1 million vehicles around the country for driver and vehicle fitness in the thirty-day period from the 1 April 2006 to 1 May 2006. This includes the efforts of all provincial and local authority interventions and will cover the full spectrum of offences. Further on, the 120 vehicles of the Visible Car Project did visible patrolling around the country on hazardous routes.

During the Easter weekend, which is always taken from the start of the increase in traffic on the Thursday to the Monday, after which traffic volumes decrease, there is an increased risk of accidents. The biggest increase of traffic is experienced on the main routes leading out of Gauteng, with the N1 north and south, the N3 towards KwaZulu-Natal and the N4 towards Mpumalanga traditionally having the highest traffic volumes.

Apart from the people taking short holidays, migrant workers go home to their families and the members of the Zion Church go to worship at Moria City.

During periods of peak traffic volumes, like Easter and summer holidays, the issuing of information about fatal road traffic accidents, weather and road conditions and law enforcement actions, serves as a platform in the mass media to get road traffic safety information across to road users. Informing road users about the dangers of unsafe road usage and educating them on correct traffic participation is of vital importance in changing the perceptions and ultimately the behaviour of road users.

This Easter weekend fell within the school holidays but the schools in Gauteng and nearby provinces started just after the Easter weekend that caused an increase, comparing to Easter 2005, of traffic volumes on our roads.

Note should be taken that this is a preliminary report. Based on experience over the past few years, it is expected that more reports on crashes that happened over the Easter weekend could be submitted during the next few months.

## 2. Summary

### 2.1 Executive Summary

Over Easter 2005 there were 203 and over Easter 2006 191 fatal road accidents during the 5 day period from the Thursday prior to Easter Friday until the Monday. This shows a decrease of 12 accidents during 2006.

The fatalities over the Easter period in 2005 were 252 and in 2006 taking the unconfirmed accidents into account are 269. This shows that the fatality rate in 2006 (1.41) is higher than the fatality rate in 2005 (1.24). Fatality rate is the number of persons killed per accident.

Over the 6-day long weekend, from the Wednesday before Freedom Day until Monday, 1 May 2006, Workers Day, 75 fatal crashes were reported in which 122 persons were killed.

### 2.2 Summary of Major Accidents over Easter 2006

A brief summary of the major accidents that happened over the 2006 Easter weekend is provided in the table below. Six accidents occurred where 4 or more people were killed. Mostly these accidents were head-on collisions and single vehicles that overturned. Four of these accidents occurred in Mpumalanga, one in the Eastern Cape and one in the Northern Cape. Speed too high for circumstances and fatigue were the main causes of these accidents followed by tyre burst, animals on the road and unsafe overtaking.

#### Summary of Major Accidents:

Place	Date & Time	People killed	Brief Description of Accident	Contributory Factors
N4 between Kanyamazane and Kaapmuiden MPU	Wed 13/04/06 6:30	1 Driver 3 passenger	It is alleged that the driver of the Sedan (Reg Nr. FMX169MP) was overtaking in the face of oncoming traffic and collided head-on with a Station Wagon (Reg Nr ND19823) <b>Head-on collision</b>	Overtaking in the face of oncoming traffic and speed too high for circumstances
N4 near Witbank MPU	Thurs 14/04/06 01:30	1 Driver 3 passenger	It is alleged that the driver of a Sedan (Reg Nr. HBV786GP) fell asleep, and the vehicle overturned. <b>Single vehicle overturned</b>	Speed too high for circumstances and fatigue.

N4 Arnot Station off ramp MPU	Wed 13/04/06 13:05	5 Passengers	The tyre of the vehicle burst, the driver lost control and the vehicle overturned. <b>Single vehicle overturned</b>	Tyre burst Speed too high for circumstances
N4 between Witbank and Vosman MPU	Wed 13 /04/06 14:00	2 Drivers 4 passenger	It is alleged that the driver of a LDV (Reg Nr. CXP492MP) was traveling from Pretoria on the N4 , fell asleep and went to the opposite side of the freeway and collided head-on with two other LDV's (Reg Nr MBR157GP and PLR623GP). <b>Head-on collision</b>	Speed too high for circumstances and fatigue
R61 approximately 10 Km from Bizana between Bizana and Flagstaff in the Eastern Cape.	Wed 13/04/06 17:00	6 Pedestrians	It is alleged that the driver of a LDV (Reg Nr. Mcenge ZN) was traveling from Flagstaff to Bizana and near the Nomlancu village a dog ran over the road. The driver tried to avoid the dog , lost control of the vehicle, the vehicle overturned and hit 10 pedestrians that were standing next to the road. Five children between the ages of 2 and 12 were killed. <b>Single vehicle overturned and accident with pedestrians</b>	Speed too high for circumstances and an animal on the road
N1 near Richmond in the Northern Cape	Friday 14/04/06 02:45	1 Driver 4 passenger	It is alleged that the driver of a Sedan (Reg Nr. Cy32175) has fell asleep, went to the opposite side of the road and collided head-on with a heavy vehicle. (Reg Nr. FCC511NW) <b>Head-on collision</b>	Fatigue