



Western Cape  
Government

Transport and Public Works

# ONTRACK

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER | ISSUE # 3 MARCH 2015



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# Editor's Note



This year, road safety remains a top priority for the Department of Transport and Public Works. As we eagerly anticipate the Easter period, our aim is to work together to reduce the number of road crashes.

Road death numbers decreased by 6% in December 2014. This is a clear indication that the collective efforts of the Department's Safely Home campaign and its partners are saving lives. However, pedestrian deaths remain a cause for concern. Research shows that many of these crashes occur on weekends, particularly among men and at night. The opinion piece on page 4 discusses the link between alcohol and pedestrian deaths and what motorists and pedestrians can do to reduce the risk.

Provincial Traffic Services and its partners will again monitor our roads day and night to help motorists reach their destinations safely. Many fatal crashes on our roads in 2014 could have been avoided if drivers were more cautious and followed the traffic rules. We urge drivers to be extra careful.

The end of last year saw the involvement of the Department in many exciting initiatives that are highlighted in this issue. In November, the Department and its partners officially opened a wind-turbine tower factory in Atlantis. Pages 8 and 9 describe how this landmark plays a key role in the renewable energy sector in our province, as well as providing employment opportunities.

Another proud achievement was the implementation of the GO GEORGE bus service in December. As South Africa's first non-metro integrated public transport network, the service is already connecting hundreds of commuters in a safe, reliable and cost-effective way. Browse through the photographs on page 14 to find out more.

We hope you enjoy our first edition of 2015.

**Regards,  
On Track Team**



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# Bursary awarded to Provincial Traffic Inspector

The exceptional potential of Provincial Traffic Inspector Marcelle Moses has been recognised by the Department of Safety and Security Management at Tshwane University of Technology. Moses has been given a R7 000 bursary for the first year of study towards the NDRY03 National Diploma in Road Traffic and Municipal Police Management. She is doing the course this year by means of distance learning.

Moses was the best student in the 2013-2014 Basic Traffic Officer's Course at Gene Louw Traffic College in Brackenfell. The Department of Transport and Public Works has praised her for making the Western Cape proud. Provincial Traffic Chief Kenny Africa says this study opportunity will boost her career aspirations and it reflects well on the high standards of traffic law enforcement in the province. "Inspector Moses has a bright future ahead of her and she is a potential leader in traffic policing and management. We are confident that she will grab this opportunity and make the most of it," said Africa.

Inspector Moses (31), from Somerset West, currently works at the N2 weighbridge where she conducts vehicle and driver fitness tests. "I'm elated and I'm proud of this achievement. To graduate as best student at the traffic college last year inspired me to dream big as I love law enforcement. I'm hoping to complete my diploma *cum laude*," she said.

Shortly before the graduation ceremony in June 2014, Inspector Moses suffered a serious knee injury, but this didn't stop her. "My mother, who is ill, my husband and my children, one of whom has autism, motivated me to finish the

course. Facilitators at the college also guided me throughout the year, and I'm so grateful for that," she said.

Moses hopes to become a facilitator at the Gene Louw Traffic College one day, as she enjoys educating people about the importance of road safety.



**Provincial Traffic Chief Kenny Africa, Provincial Inspector Marcelle Moses and Head of the Department of Transport and Public Works Jacqui Gooch.**

# Alcohol a major contributor to pedestrian trauma

Contrary to popular perception among motorists, the bulk of pedestrian road trauma is not inflicted on highways, writes Hector Elliott, Chief Director of Safely Home Road Safety Coordination, Department of Transport and Public Works.

More than twice as many pedestrians are killed in 60 km/h zones than in 120 km/h zones in the greater Cape Town area. It is nonetheless clear that the trauma on our freeways is unacceptably high.

The N7 adjacent to Du Noon, the N1 from Brackenfell to Joostenberg Vlakte, and the N2 from the airport to Spine Road are all pedestrian-crash hotspots. Vanguard Drive from Masemola Road to the R300, and the R300 from Vanguard Drive to the N2, form a V-shaped nexus of pedestrian trauma.

Alcohol use is a major contributing factor to pedestrian deaths, particularly among men, at night, and especially on weekends. Blood-alcohol tests performed on dead pedestrians in the greater Cape Town area revealed that more than 90% had been drinking when they were knocked down. The pedestrian fatality profile shows that the number of deaths increase steadily during the day, peaking between 18:00 and midnight. Mondays and Tuesdays tend to be relatively crash-free, but from Wednesday, the number of deaths starts increasing, reaching a peak on Saturday nights.

## What can be done?

All road safety issues must be addressed through a combination of law enforcement, public education and

engineering of the roads. Evidence from across the world shows that re-engineering the road environment to better accommodate pedestrians is the most effective intervention to reduce pedestrian accidents. This includes appropriate speed limits, raising pedestrian crossings, introducing speed bumps, and building infrastructure like footbridges to separate pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

South Africa has experienced massive informal urbanisation in the form of many unplanned settlements. Because of their unplanned nature, these settlements are associated with high pedestrian fatalities. The construction of expensive infrastructure (such as highway footbridges) must carefully follow the patterns of informal settlement to improve pedestrian safety.

Meanwhile, all motorists can make themselves and pedestrians safer by driving carefully and considerately and always remaining well within the speed limit.

**Enforcement, education and engineering make our pedestrians safer.**



Highway footbridges reduce pedestrian deaths on roads.

# Car seats for young children are now a legal requirement

The Department of Transport and Public Works is appealing to parents and caregivers to buckle young children up in appropriate car seats to help prevent injury in a crash.

Age-appropriate car seats are effective because the car seat harness and vehicle seat belt are positioned over the parts of a child's body that are most likely to absorb the force of a crash.

Amendments to the National Road Traffic Act (NRTA) mean that, up to the age of three, children must be properly buckled up when travelling in private vehicles. The penalty for not obeying the new law has not yet been determined. South Africa's Chief Magistrates will consider recommendations for penalties in respect of all new offences that have been created by the amended Act.

## Children under three are much safer in a car seat.

Research by the Department's Safely Home campaign shows that most of the bodies of young children who died in road crashes were recovered outside or under the vehicle. Minister of Transport and Public Works Donald Grant said: "The presence of the body outside the vehicle is a near-certain indicator that the child was not restrained or was improperly restrained, as ejection does not occur when an appropriate child restraint is used."

## Symbolic torch for road safety awareness at schools



**ROAD SAFETY AWARENESS:** National Minister of Transport Dipuo Peters handed over the Torch of Peace to national Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga during a ceremony at the Sithembele Matiso Secondary School, Nyanga in January 2015. The Torch is a symbol of government's year-round road safety awareness campaign. It is expected to be passed on to Provincial Departments of Education and Transport until Easter, after which it will go to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.



# Hermanus Community Day Centre

The R38m Hermanus Community Day Centre has brought the primary health care facilities previously housed at the Zwelihle, Mount Pleasant and Hermanus clinics under one roof.

The building, which opened its doors to the public on 29 December 2014, is accessible, environmentally friendly, safe and secure. It makes optimal use of natural light and air and the design supports better infection control. It has open spaces and enclosed waiting areas.

## The centre provides communities of Hermanus with easy access to quality primary health care.

The centre, constructed by the Department of Transport and Public Works, is centrally located in Swartdam Road, less than 5 km from Hermanus and Mount Pleasant. Being within walking

distance provides communities with easy access to quality primary health care. More complex cases can easily be transferred to the nearby Hermanus Hospital.

The centre has a full staff complement, including a permanently appointed medical doctor and dentist. It offers the full primary health care service package, including: women's health, child health, mental health, treatment of infectious diseases, oral health, rehabilitation services, as well as chronic care.

**The centre is open from 07:00 until 18:00.  
Tel: 028 313 5700.**



The centre is optimally situated for easy community access.

# RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT IN ATLANTIS



The Gestamp Renewable Industries (GRI) factory in Atlantis.

A R300m factory in Atlantis is already making 150 wind-turbine towers a year. It employs 200 people, trains operators to master specialised manufacturing processes, and contributes to the government's local content requirements for renewable energy projects.

The factory, built by the Spanish corporation Gestamp Renewable Industries (GRI), is the first in the Western Cape and the second in South Africa.

The opening of the factory in November last year was welcomed by the national Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Transport and Public Works, and City of Cape Town.

All of these partners are committed to expanding South Africa's manufacturing industry and to increasing the country's industrial base.

The Western Cape Government will apply to DTI to have certain parts of Atlantis declared a Special Economic Zone to help speed up industrialisation of the area through a suite of tax and other incentives.

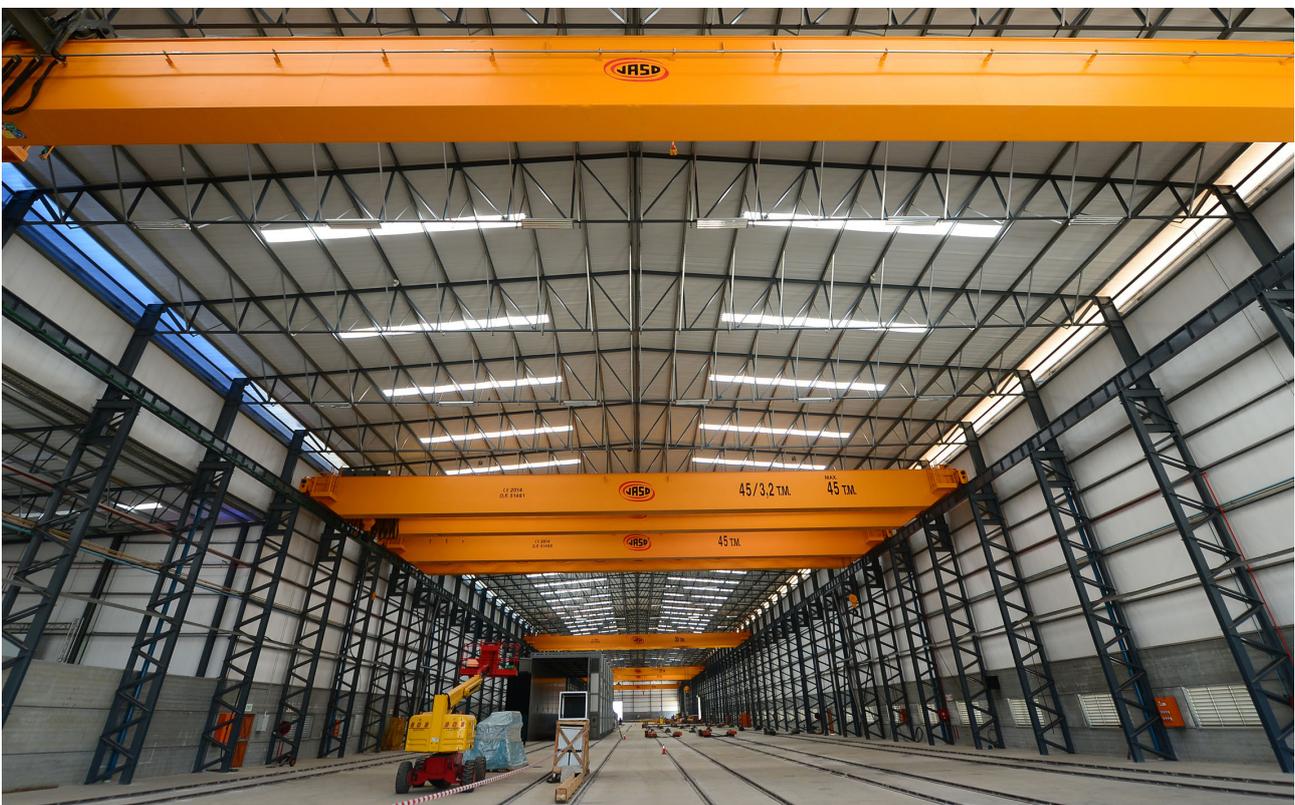
# MAKING WESTERN CAPE THE LOWEST CARBON REGION AND GREEN ECONOMY HUB IN THE COUNTRY

The development incentive grant received from the partners was put to good use in constructing the Atlantis facility, which has become a landmark in the area. The partners are working closely with the green industries sector to develop policies that will enable further investment in the Western Cape and beyond.

Minister of Transport and Public Works Donald Grant said, "The work we do in the renewable energy sector in the Western Cape will continue to create the enabling environment that allows the sector to thrive, attract more investment to exceed the already R20bn estimated to have been allocated to actual and planned investment in the sector, and produce more jobs."



Spanish ambassador Juan Sells, GRI CEO Javier Imaz Rubalcaba, Western Cape Minister of Transport and Public Works Donald Grant, Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies and GRI SA Plant Manager Christiaan Botha.



The factory is promoting growth and job creation in Atlantis. Photos by Bruce Sutherland

# ASOD introduced from Laingsburg to Touws River

According to Minister of Transport and Public Works Donald Grant, the Average Speed Over Distance (ASOD) camera law enforcement system is steadily making Western Cape roads safer.

The ASOD system calculates the average speed of a vehicle as it travels from one camera to the next. In December 2014, the ASOD network was extended to cover the notorious 72,1 km stretch of the N1 highway between Laingsburg and Touws River.

This marks the fifth implementation phase of enforcement technology that has led to a substantial decrease in road fatalities and better adherence to speed limits on 423 km of the most dangerous roads.

“We are confident that the ASOD system will cause more and more people to slow down on these stretches. This will substantially reduce the likelihood of horrific crashes, particularly along the roads that are busy during holiday periods,” said Minister Grant.

## The five phases of ASOD so far

- October 2011: R61 from Beaufort West to Aberdeen – a distance of 71,6 km.
- December 2012: N1 from Beaufort West to Three Sisters – 31,7 km.
- October 2013: a stretch of the R27 West Coast road – 57,2 km.
- December 2013: N1 from Beaufort West to Laingsburg – 190,6 km.
- December 2014: N1 from Laingsburg to Touws River – 72,1 km.



ASOD law enforcement equipment in Laingsburg.



# Full-time employment brings joy to EPWP beneficiaries

The future looks promising for 60 young people who were employed full-time by the Overstrand Municipality in December 2014. The recruits are former beneficiaries of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) co-ordinated by the Department of Transport and Public Works. They have gained valuable experience in the municipal traffic, law enforcement and fire fighting units they are now serving. This opportunity has enabled beneficiaries to look ahead at a future bright with possibility and highlights what can be achieved through partnership between the different spheres of government.



Traffic Warden Jay-Cee Marais (26) from Hawston said: "I can't describe how excited and happy I am to have a permanent job. My hard work and dedication paid off and now I can look forward to making a contribution to road safety in my community." His wish for the future is to study at the Gene Louw Traffic College in Brackenfell.



Cadet Firefighter Juandr  Viviers (22) from Hermanus says the EPWP gave him the exposure to a career he loves. "I'm honoured to serve the community with pride and to make a difference. I value this opportunity to play a role in the community. Being a firefighter and rescuing people from dangerous situations brings me joy." Viviers says he is proud to carry his badge and looks forward to many years as a firefighter.



Assistant Law Enforcement Officer Courtney De Rhode (25) from Hermanus is delighted to wear his uniform every day; he is thankful he has a job and has the chance to be a role model for others in his community. "This opportunity brought meaning to my life and showed me it is possible to achieve my goals and dreams." De Rhode hopes to reach the top rung in his career, but for now, is happy to patrol the beach area and keep others safe.

# TOUGH STAND ON UNSAFE TRAIN RIDING

Most commuters have to arrive at work at more or less the same time. Sometimes Metrorail Western Cape services become so crowded that commuters hang on to the outside of trains. “Trainsurfers” choose to ride on the outside of trains (even on the roof) because they find it exciting. Travelling on the outside of a train for whatever reason is illegal and extremely dangerous, potentially fatal.

Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) rail security services have been put on high alert to take action against any person travelling on the outside of a train. Offenders face arrest, fines and possible prosecution. Riana Scott of Metrorail says the best way of curbing this behaviour is to stop trains from departing as long as anyone is hanging on to a carriage. “However, this will mean that many trains will depart late at every station where this behaviour is prevalent, leading to extensive delays and commuter backlash,” says Scott. Nonetheless, for safety reasons, Metrorail Operations have directed that no train may leave a station while anyone is hanging on to any of its carriages.

Small groups of security officers struggle to police large numbers of offenders. Offenders flee the scene as soon as the train stops. They are mostly fare evaders who are not carrying identification, making the imposition of fines very difficult. Metrorail continues to conduct safety awareness campaigns to educate commuters about safe commuting practices and it continues to arrest offenders. In addition, new express train and shuttle train services have been introduced to alleviate overcrowding. Measures such as smart ticketing are also expected to prevent unauthorised access to stations, while enclosed rail reserves make it more difficult to access stations illegally.

**Members of the public can report unsafe travelling to Metrorail Protection Services on Tel: 021 449 4336 or SMS an anonymous crime tip-off to 23311.**



Commuters cling to the outside of a train at Bellville railway station.

**Travelling on the outside of a train for whatever reason is illegal and extremely dangerous, potentially fatal.**

# BETTER SAFETY AT STELLENBOSCH RAILWAY CROSSINGS

The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) and the Department of Transport and Public Works are working together to improve transport safety through the Western Cape's R70.7m level crossing elimination programme. Infrastructural improvements constructed by Power Group at various sites on Vlaeberg Road in Stellenbosch are set to make crossing railways lines safer for vehicles, their passengers, pedestrians and other road users. Two farm crossings will also be eliminated by constructing underpasses for the exclusive use of farmers. The level crossing elimination programme is expected to be completed in June 2015.



The construction of an overhead bridge at Vlaeberg Road is well under way and will be completed in June. Motorists will no longer have to wait for trains to pass. Rail commuters will also benefit because there will be fewer places where trains are required to slow down.



The Fransmanskloof level crossing is one of six crossings along the northern corridor to be eliminated. High fences will also be erected along the railway to reduce the risk of pedestrian accidents.



The construction of a pedestrian footbridge at Lynedoch Station is expected to be completed in March. This will improve safety and reduce the number of commuters illegally crossing the railway line.



The new service road between Vlaeberg and Vlottenberg will be proclaimed as a provincial road after four level crossings along this route have been eliminated.



# GO GEORGE WHEELS IN MOTION

The Department of Transport and Public Works, the George Municipality and the national Department of Transport are proud to announce that GO GEORGE – South Africa's first non-metro integrated public transport network – is up and running with the roll-out of the first four routes. Since December 2014, the service has been connecting hundreds of commuters in a safe, reliable and cost-effective way.

The first four routes are: Loerie Park to the CBD; Rosemoor to the CBD and Garden Route Mall; Denneoord to the CBD and CBD to Wilderness (initially only as far as the Garden Route Mall). Passengers can make use of free transfers between buses within 45 minutes of purchasing their tickets. Initially, the large buses will be used on the first routes and may be replaced on some routes with smaller buses at a later stage.

The fare for any trip within a 15 km radius is R8,50. Tickets are only sold on the buses and passengers are requested to have the correct change or as close to the correct amount as possible. The bus service operates 17 hours a day, 7 days a week from around 05:30 until 23:30. Frequencies depend on demand, with more buses during peak times. Ambassadors are currently travelling on the buses to explain how the system works.

The project was planned and implemented in collaboration with transport operators in the area and is a partnership between all three spheres of government. Millions of rands have been invested in new infrastructure and upgrades to link outlying areas like Thembalethu and Pacaltsdorp to the rest of the town. These include roadway civil works as well as all bus stops and the construction of a fully functional bus depot. Arterial roads have also been upgraded to ensure optimal network operation.

A significant breakthrough is that George has pioneered the first universally accessible minibus transport vehicle as part of its mixed fleet of vehicles. This was a groundbreaking development, and has been accepted by the national Department of Transport as a workable solution to address the lack of universally accessible minibuses in South Africa.

## Future routes

During the first half of 2015, there will be a series of launches, each with four or five new routes. These will expand the network to all areas of the George Municipality, including Touwsrante, Wilderness, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Campus, Herolds Bay and Victoria Bay. Several inter-town routes to Knysna, Mossel Bay and Oudtshoorn are also planned.

GO GEORGE is a model for integrated transport solutions in South Africa's non-metro and rural areas. It promises to be a huge success and is a testament to the tangible value of partnership, public sector investment, good inter-governmental relations and effective stakeholder management.

**Contact the GO GEORGE Customer Care Call Centre on 0800 044 044 or visit its website at: <http://gogeorge.org.za/>**



Kenny Africa inspects a minibus taxi in Mossel Bay.

## 40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT

Kenny Africa is a “hands on” professional and one will often find him with traffic officers on Western Cape roads checking vehicles, arresting drunk drivers and confiscating illicit goods. After 40 years in traffic law enforcement, his contribution to the service has been remarkable.

It was in 1974 when an 18-year-old Kenny from Genadendal joined the service. Even though apartheid was still in force, he was determined to make it to the top. It was not an easy journey. He almost resigned after just six months in the service, only for a colleague to tear up his resignation letter.

“For me to make it to the top, I had to set high standards for myself,” he says. Africa consistently received Class 1 merit reports throughout his career – the top performance rating a traffic officer can get.

He moved up the ranks through steady promotion – from Worcester traffic chief, to deputy provincial traffic chief to his current position as Chief Director: Traffic Management in the Western Cape.

Kenny’s dedication to road safety has always been one of his many strengths. Today he is responsible for about 450 traffic officers, 12 traffic centres, four impoundment centres, nine weighbridges, two shadow centres (where suspected drunk drivers are tested) and a traffic college.

He can regularly be heard in the media as spokesperson for traffic and road matters in the province. Africa is also a regular speaker at annual road safety conferences, high-level meetings and universities.

A proud achievement was when he completed his BTech in Traffic and Municipal Policing *cum laude* in 2006 at the age of 50.

**“For me to make it to the top, I had to set high standards for myself.”**

# Stalwart in the public sector

Under his leadership, traffic law enforcement services have improved significantly over the years. He does not tolerate bribery and corruption within the service and ensures that justice is served at all times. “I will continue fighting the ongoing carnage on our roads and as such we must do all we can to positively change driver behaviour in order to prevent the high rate of senseless injuries and deaths on our roads. There’s still a lot to be done,” he says.

Behind this busy man is a supportive family. Kenny has been married to Trudy for 37 years and they are proud to have had three children – Henry (who died in a tragic car crash in 2001), Eileen (Doctor in Sports Science and Lecturer at University of Stellenbosch) and Kenny Junior (Police Officer). He is also grandfather to three grandchildren.

Kenny constantly inspires his colleagues to wear their blue uniform and rank insignia with pride.

He has earned the respect of all in the traffic fraternity, locally and at a national level and his contribution to the promotion of road safety is widely acknowledged.

**“We must all do what we can to prevent senseless injury and death on our roads.”**



Various awards can be seen in his Cape Town office.

# ON ROUTE TO BECOMING QUALIFIED TRAFFIC OFFICERS

A total of 43 trainees (32 provincial students and 11 municipal students) were recruited by the Department of Transport and Public Works for a 12-month traffic officers' training course at the Gene Louw Traffic College in Brackenfell. The course started in August 2014 and ends in July 2015.

The training course has brought Renay Kennedy and Janneke Bergman (both 23) closer. The two have worked in the provincial traffic service as interns. They are excited about the last few months ahead and are committed to help one another to complete the course.

Bergman, from George, says graduating *cum laude* is her goal. "I'm grateful for this opportunity. To make a difference and to potentially save people's lives motivates me to make the most of this training."

Kennedy, from Beaufort West, says she has learned a lot during the first few months of training. "This includes how to deal with people's conduct, road safety and the importance of traffic officers in society. I don't just want to be a traffic officer on paper, I want to be one at heart. I look forward to my future as a traffic officer."

**Visit the Gene Louw Traffic College website at [www.westerncape.gov.za/gene-louw-traffic-college](http://www.westerncape.gov.za/gene-louw-traffic-college).**

"I don't just want to be a traffic officer on paper, I want to be one at heart."

*Renay Kennedy, trainee traffic officer.*



FRIENDS: Renay Kennedy and Janneke Bergman.

## Stop cable theft from Metrorail

Cable theft on Metrorail Western Cape train lines results in major delays that prevent commuters from arriving at work on time. The total cost to the economy and to commuters who miss appointments or have their days ruined is even higher. Metrorail is offering a R25 000 reward for information that leads to the successful conviction of cable thieves. Communities living next to railway lines are encouraged to report suspicious activity on or near tracks immediately to Metrorail Protection Services. Call 021 449 4336/5056 or SMS an anonymous crime tip-off to 32211.

## Stop kabeldiefstal op Metrorail-dienste

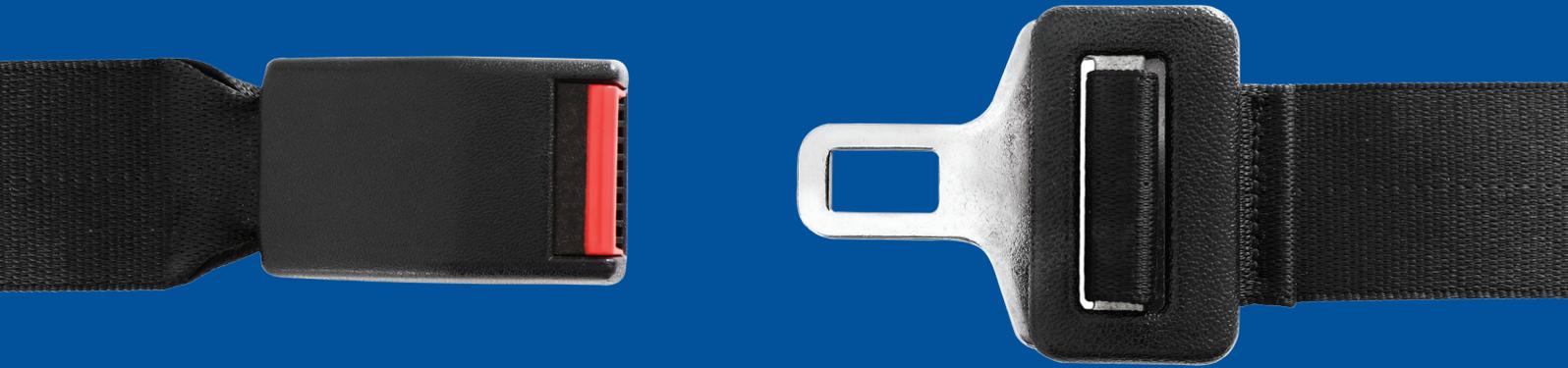
Kabeldiefstal op Metrorail Wes-Kaap se treindienste lei tot vertragings wat verhinder dat pendelaars betyds is vir werk. Die totale koste vir die ekonomie en op pendelaars wat afspraak mis of wie se hele dag bederf is, is selfs hoër. Metrorail bied 'n beloning van R25 000 vir enige inligting wat lei tot die suksesvolle skuldigbevinding van 'n oortreder. Pendelaars en gemeenskappe wat langs spoorlyne woon word aangemoedig om verdagte aktiwiteite op die spoorlyn of naby dit onmiddellik aan die Metrorail Beskermingsdienste te rapporteer by 021 449 4336/5056; of anonieme wenke sms na 32211.

## Ukubiwa kweentambo zombane weenkonzozikaMetrorail

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# BUCKLE UP



**IT TAKES A SECOND TO SAVE A LIFE.**

<http://safelyhome.westerncape.gov.za>

**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:** @WCGovTPW

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**MISSION:**

The Department of Transport and Public Works develops and maintains appropriate infrastructure and related services for sustainable economic development which generates growth in jobs and facilitates empowerment and opportunity.

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