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Community Safety and Transport Management  
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# MOPALAMI

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## FIGHT AGAINST GBVF REINFORCED IN NW



FESTIVE OPERATIONS ACTIVATED TO REDUCE ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES

ILLEGAL MINING SUBORTAGES ECONOMIC GROWTH



# EDITORIAL COMMENT



**Mr OA Koonyaditse**  
**Editor in Chief**

The year has undoubtedly like all others before it, had its fair share of highs and lows, challenges and triumphs. It is in navigating through these moments that we discover our resilience and strength. Rather than dwelling on regrets, we can use the struggles of the past as a foundation for a brighter future, transforming all regrets into building blocks for moral rectitude.

Typical of real life, no every wish comes to a reality but some undesirables can be a reference to map a new pathway. A new year is always like a chapter of book of life that needs to be written. With pen in your hand, you can decide which blanks need to be filled first and what message needs to be put across.

As civil servants, we are being looked at with expectations by recipients of our service and there and then we get judged. As in individual, you become a mirror for us all. This period is a perfect time to reflect and begin working towards becoming better. What we mere mortals often forget is that life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.

As we bid farewell to the old and welcome the new, let us do so with open hearts, a positive mindset, and the courage to pursue a journey of becoming better public servants.



## Editorial Team

Editor :Yvonne Maqoboza

Assistant Editor: Rebaone Moeng

## Design and Layout:

Godfrey Refiloe Modibedi

## Contributors:

Lemogang Pule

Omphile Maleka

Bokamoso Shame

Didintle Mokgoma

Thuto Sehularo

Refilwe Kwamongwe

Kutlwano Tsholo





# MANAMAKGOTENG UNITES AGAINST GBVF



The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management led a community engagement in Manamakgoteng village near Mogwase, in the Moses Kotane Municipality, bringing together residents and a wide range of stakeholders under one banner in the fight against Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). The event marked the official launch of a province wide GBVF campaign designed to mobilise communities and government entities to confront violence, break cycles of abuse, and address the rising impact of substance abuse on families within communities across the Province.

This drew broad support from various stakeholders in the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster, mining companies, trade unions and insurances. Together, these partners helped to kick start a campaign that stretched across all four districts in the province during and beyond the annual 16 Days of Activism period.

Gender Based Violence and Femicide remains one of South Africa's most urgent social crises affecting women, children, the elderly and LGBTQ+ people at alarming rates. While GBVF has many contributing factors such as poverty, harmful gender norms, unemployment and lack of social support, the event placed strong emphasis on the growing impact of alcohol and substance abuse.

Many families in the North West are battling with addiction related violence, and activists have increasingly pointed to drugs and alcohol as catalysts for aggression, loss of control and breakdown of family structures.

Addressing gathered residents, Director for Crime Prevention Partnerships, Ms Florence Nchoe, stressed that the challenge of GBVF could not be solved by government alone. She explained that the Manamakgoteng event was intentionally rooted in the community because long term change needed active participation, awareness, and the willingness of ordinary people to speak out and intervene when witnessing abuse taking place. Ms Nchoe stated that government recognised the urgency of unified action.

"Part of our measures as government was to bring intervention in order to deal with this scourge. We realised that our efforts require a multi sectorial and integrated approach. Therefore, we gathered as a collective to ensure maximum representation by our communities. All voices had to find expression as we charted a way forward in dealing with the violation of women, the elderly, children, the LGBTQ+ community and other vulnerable groups," she concluded.



Mr Sefotho emphasised that tackling substance abuse in efforts to curb the increase of GBVF must form a central part of any sustainable GBVF reduction strategy. He further identified early referrals for rehabilitation, school outreach programmes, ongoing support for recovering individuals, government and community driven awareness campaigns, and subsequent follow ups on said campaigns as critical components to fight the rise of substance abuse which is directly linked to GBVF.

Substance abuse, particularly involving alcohol and drugs such as nyaope, has long been associated with spikes in domestic violence and intimate partner abuse. Statistics South Africa has shown that harmful alcohol use by men increases the likelihood of violent behaviour, while partners of regular drinkers are significantly more vulnerable to assault. These patterns have been observed in rural and urban communities alike, including those surrounding Mogwase and the broader Moses Kotane area.

The Manamakgoteng programme also featured the popular Moja Love series “Ready to Quit” presenter, Mr Thabang Sefotho, who mentors individuals undergoing rehabilitation from drug addiction. Mr Sefotho spoke to the Department at length about insights into the link between drugs and violence. Further, he warns that substance abuse erodes self-control, dignity and emotional stability, all factors that create fertile ground for violence. “As parents we need to give our children love and care at home, because if we don't, they will go out into the streets and they will receive love in all the wrong places.

Addiction is not just about one person, it destroys families, hurts communities, and opens the door to violence,” he said. “When people are high, their sense of control, respect and humanity is often lost. That loss can turn a household into a battleground,” said Sefotho, whom, his words capture the reality faced by many families in the North West, where substance abuse related conflict often escalates into physical and emotional abuse.

Member of the Mayoral Committee for Community Services in Moses Kotane Local Municipality, Bushy Manganye, urged the public to make GBVF prevention a natural part of daily living. He encouraged residents to use churches, schools, workplaces and social gatherings as spaces to normalise conversations about respect, protection and non-violence. “We encouraged the public to make the resistance of GBVF a normal part of our lives.”

“As we build a community that we can all be proud of and restore our moral fibre, we needed to go back to the basics of Ubuntu and consideration of others,” said Manganye.

Community members who attended the launch welcomed the initiative, expressing hope that a unified front supported by workshops, dialogues and targeted programmes, would reduce cases of violence in the community of Manamakgoteng. There was an emphasis on the importance of involving young people in the fight against GBVF, young people who are often both victims and perpetrators of substance fuelled conflict. Others expressed gratitude for the presence of social workers, police representatives and counselling practitioners who provided information on reporting procedures, self-defence measures protection orders and available psychosocial services.







The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management has reinforced its commitment to strengthening coordination in all identified GBVF hotspots across the province, beyond the symbolic 16 Days of Activism. The broader vision is to create a culture of prevention in which families, schools and social spaces actively reject violence and substance abuse.



As the sun set over Manamakgoteng village, the message from both government officials and community members alike was clear, Gender Based Violence and Femicide is not just a policing issue or a matter for government alone. It is a human crisis requiring empathy, unity and accountability from all corners of society. The day's proceedings ended with a renewed sense of shared purpose, a community willing to confront hard realities together, and a province ready to strengthen its stand against violence in all its forms. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2025, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, declared Gender Based Violence and Femicide a National Disaster.





# Turning the tide against GBVF takes a village!



One of the most common forms of Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) happens behind closed doors, making it difficult to police. The police cannot deal with this pandemic alone, collective action is required to end the scourge. Adding to the strain, is the continuous cycle of withdrawing cases against perpetrators. This prohibits the law to take its course and enforce accountability. Government has created a safe space for victims through a number of support initiatives. For one, the first point of contact at any police station is through a victim friendly facility to ensure dignified privacy and security. A dedicated GBVF desk with specialised support services to ensure that sensitive cases are prioritised.

Declared a national disaster, GBVF requires a multi-sectoral approach. As a preventative measure, the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management mobilises role players including community structures by way of the Prevention of GBVF Against Vulnerable Groups Campaign. The campaigns are activated throughout all four districts in the North West Province, focusing on areas with high cases of common assault; assault GBH (Grievous Bodily Harm); rape; murder and other GBVF related crimes.

The Director for Crime Prevention Partnerships, Florence Nchoe says the campaign plays a pivotal role in empowering communities to speak out against abuse.

“Central to this campaign is the cultivation of a culture that goes against harmful social beliefs. We encourage communities to speak out against wrong doing, to work with authorities to break the cycle of abuse.

“We do that by educating them, making them part of finding solutions and ensuring that throughout the different community structures, churches, schools and workplaces they develop and spread a strong narrative of responsible behaviour to build a violent free society,” said Nchoe.

In Ganyesa village, the Community Policing Forum (CPF) strongly denounced the perpetuation of abuse and violence. With a rise in sexual assault and murder incidents their stance is to push back against the surge. Their efforts become fundamental in prevention and early detection.

“We have organised ourselves as the community and we continue to mobilise others to say we will not stand for these rapes, assaults and murder incidents that we have come to experience.

“We work hand in hand with our police and other authorities to bring stability in our community, we refuse to protect criminals and enable their actions,” said the CPF Chairperson Gift Kalagobe at a march against GBVF organised by the community. The Prevention of Gender Based Violence Against Vulnerable Groups Campaign is implemented through the District Development Model (DDM).

This integrated governance and service delivery model aligns resources to enhance impact. The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management coordinates other government departments, municipalities, civil organisations and the private sector within the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster to foster integration in the fight against GBVF.



## MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE AWARDED FOR EXCELLENCE IN NW



Hard working and dedicated men and women in blue were recently recognised by the North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, MEC Wessels Morweng.

The South African Police Service officers who have consistently served the community with zeal and enthusiasm were acknowledged for their commitment at work despite the challenges they faced with in their workplace.

In his address during the ceremony, MEC Morweng said: "These awards neither are not only the recognition of excellence, nor only intended to commend the exceptional work done by officers but, they are also an acknowledgement and a credit to the officers who have achieved excellence under trying circumstances."

The awards covered all departments within the SAPS from visible policing to support personnel, acknowledging both individual and team successes, under the theme: **"Celebrating Human Potential,"**

The awards included excellence, long serving medals, bravery, and commendations for various achievements.

The North West Chairperson of the Community Safety and Transport Management, Portfolio Committee Freddy Sonakile graced the event together with the Acting Deputy National Commissioner Lineo Nkhuoa, North West **Acting Provincial Commissioner Major General (Dr) Ryno Naidoo**, Free State Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant General Baile Motswenyane and Limpopo Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant Geneneral Thembi Hadebe.





# GBVF tops agenda of Safer Festive Season Operations



In a concerted effort to curb the plague of Gender Based- Violence and Femicide (GBVF) that has officially been declared a national disaster and continues to affect the most vulnerable, the South African Police Service (SAPS) in the North West Province has activated the 2025 Safer Festive Season Campaign with a sharp focus on GBVF amongst other forms of crime.

The heightened, multidisciplinary, Provincial Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (PROVJOINTS) led operation, runs from 01 October 2025 to 31 January 2026. This is to ensure implementation of advanced crime prevention and combat strategies to address patterns of criminality that occur during the busiest period of the year.

Crime statistics point to troubling cases of rape, sexual harassment, assault, assault with grievous bodily harm and murder with victims mainly being women, children, the elderly and persons with disability. This has given rise to a zero tolerance approach by all role players in the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster to drive sustainable solutions in order to address the scourge holistically.



“Perpetrators must be held accountable and as a matter of urgency, all acts of GBVF will be taken seriously, investigated thoroughly, and addressed with appropriate sanctions while providing adequate support for survivors,” said the MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Wessels Morweng at the launch in Kanana township.

“We will also be activating, GBVF campaigns throughout the four districts, targeting hotspot areas in order to raise awareness, engage communities to form part of our intervention efforts as government and achieve collective action,” added MEC Morweng.

The safer festive season operation, is carried out in three different phases according to identified crime trends and situational patterns. GBVF being the primary focus, is given prominence throughout the phases. Speaking during the launch, Major General Patrick Asaneng says plans are intensified in phase two of the operation during the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children.

“The 16 Days of Activism falls within our second phase of the operation, where there is a spike in incidents of violence against women and children.

“We are on standby to deal with all eventualities, we will ensure that our police stations have adequate support, functional victim friendly rooms and dedicated officials to manage GBVF desks as central points for cases,” said Major General Asaneng.

Government through many support services continues to reaffirm its commitment to eradicate GBVF. However, the public has a significant role to play in eradication. Incidents of domestic violence for one, often happen behind closed doors, making it difficult to be policed. In order to ensure that domestic and other forms of violence are dealt with adequately, members of the public as a whole are encouraged to speak out against abuse in its entirety. Furthermore, to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable through the justice system, victims are discouraged from the withdrawal of cases.



# Mountain View community encouraged to denounce actions of GBVF.



The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, throughout the period of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is embarking on the Prevention Against Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Campaigns Against Vulnerable Groups. “As people we must dispel practices that foster GBVF, let us go back to upholding virtues of ubuntu in our communities,” said Nchoe.

The fundamental aim of the campaign is to coordinate stakeholders in various sectors and the public to intensify the fight against GBVF. The campaign brought together stakeholders in the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster amongst others as a way to diversify their reach to communities. In the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati, the department took the campaign to Mountain View Settlement in the Greater Taung Local Municipality. “We have realised that in our most rural areas there is a need to improve access to government services and we bring those services to the doorstep of communities.

The area is reported to have a high number of violence incidents against women, youth, children, elderly people and other vulnerable groups. “We come as a collective because integrating services allows us to optimise service delivery. This is achieved by working together as government departments, the private sector, traditional leaders and various community structures. When people are empowered, informed and engaged in the economy GBVF and many other forms of crime will be reduced,” added Nchoe. In an endeavour to mobilise community action to deal with all forms of GBVF, the Director for Crime Prevention Partnerships Florence Nchoe has encouraged a firm stand against deeds that perpetuate abuse.

“Our intention as government is to transform communities so that they can thrive in all aspects. However we need them on board to play their role. The campaigns are rolled out in areas that are categorised as GBVF hotspots, in all four districts throughout the period of 16 days of activism for no violence against women children and beyond. This is done through the District Development Model (DDM) that strengthens coordination and planning among state organs in order to optimise results. To speak out when they see wrong doing and work with authorities in order to hold perpetrators accountable.

**National GBV Hotline: 0800 150 150**

# “WE ARE NOT ZAMA ZAMAS, WE ARE ARTISANAL MINERS”



They refer to themselves as artisanal miners and definitely not Zama Zamas. Adjectively the two may not be separated, however the latter sounds a bit crude whilst the former redolent. The term refers to miners who operate at a lower scale and outside the legal framework. Some have prospecting licenses and not mining licenses which are not the same. The tools used are rudimentary, extraction is labour-intensive and the exercise itself extremely dangerous.

As the Stilfontein episode has shown, illegal mining could be deadly – both figuratively and literally. The underground entrance is via disused mine shafts which had been rehabilitated but blasted off. Here it's different. It's an open-cast mines with deepest cavities and crevices that leave an ordinary onlooker dizzy. The depth of it is frightening and the thought of falling there petrifying. Here they mine chrome and machinery used is expensive which means the venture is lucrative. The rival gang turf wars are abrupt and could be sparked by innocuous of incidents. In August 2025, five men were shot dead and a new vehicle torched.

The wreckage is still at one of the open cavities which was the source of the skirmish. Several people were arrested and they are still attending court. This is the story tale of Tlhatlhaganyane illegal mining. Neighbouring villages of Maologane and Witrandjie are also part of the melee. The trio have become the blemish of the Moses Kotane Local Municipality just behind the splendid Sun City.

In October 2025 the Deputy Minister for Police, Dr Polly Boshielo accompanied by MEC for the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, Wessels Morweng went there for community engagement called Imbizo.

“The situation is desperate. We need police here as we are living in fear”, said various speakers who took to the podium to address the Deputy Minister and the MEC in the presence of Major General Patrick Asaneng. The safety of learners was also highlighted. They have to travel in between villages to attend school. There is no scholar transport. “We fear for our children because these rival gangs with guns are all over,” said one of the learners.





Illegal mining is costing the country an estimated 70 billion Rand annually. But this is not the worst of it. Illegal miners use toxic chemicals such as mercury and cyanide to extract minerals. This poisons underground water sources, including rivers and streams, making them unsafe for drinking, irrigation, and affect aquatic and animal life.

Mine wastewater is often left untreated and dumped directly into the local rivers. An environmental degradation is unavoidable. Crevices and cavities swallow humans and animals alike. Though not officially confirmed, the locals allege there had been an incident where illegal miners were buried alive by landslide. The Police dispute this. At least they were never informed if indeed this had happened.

“The unregulated operations lead to severe soil erosion, deforestation, and the creation of sinkholes. Exposed soil and waste rock piles can contain heavy metals and other hazardous substances that are spread by wind and rain therefore affecting not only local residences but livestock and crop farmers as well,” said MEC Morweng in his address to the community.

“Activities like drilling, blasting, and the burning of fuel release fine particulate matter and toxic gases into the

air which in the long run affect breathing. This contaminated dust poses significant respiratory health risks to local communities and ends up skyrocketing health budget. Illegal miners often sabotage water pipelines and electrical cables to aid their operations, leading to contamination and service disruptions for communities,” MEC Morweng concluded emphasizing peripheral challenge.

“We are not Zama Zamas, we are Artisanal Miners,” said the lady who introduced herself as Dr Stella. She smelled expensive perfume with clothes to match. Her appearance urbane and her manner of speaking courteous. Certainly, far from the picture painted about illegal miners. According to the Police she is one of the eight arrested and court going for the five who were shot in August. “We need to be recognised as legal miners as all other big companies”.

She had a large file which she said contains documents proving they are legal miners and are authorised to extract minerals. She further said that the land which they extract minerals are theirs though this fact was challenged there and then by others in illegal mining as well.





“The problem here is that everyone claims that the land is theirs and do as they please. What exacerbate matters is that security personnel as well as miners are people we don't know and are allegedly undocumented,” said community member.

During the Deputy Minister and MEC oversight visit to the open-cast mines, scores of people who are allegedly illegal miners were seen scuppering from the cavities and up went over to the nearby hillocks. Perched there on the dumps, they saw the entire convoy moving from one mine site to the other. Even from far their grubby appearance was visible.

Kgosi Letlamoreng Batleng of Tlhatlhaganyane appealed to both the Deputy Minister and the MEC for intervention. “As a community we are exposed to extremely dangerous and dehumanizing conditions. People brought here are vulnerable to exploitation by criminal kingpins. Some of the people in the mines are engage in activities such as stock theft, robberies and intimidation. We need helped desperately,” said Kgosi Batleng.



What was clear from the deliberations is that the best way of combating illegal mining is through a multi-faceted approach. This should involve law enforcement, legislative reform and engagement with affected community engagement.

So far there has been a recorded success especially from Operation Vala Umgodi launched in November 2023 by the President. It is a national multi-departmental effort led by the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure, NATJOINTS. The strategy is based on a five-pillar approach that includes intelligence gathering, law enforcement, community engagement, environmental management, and inter-agency collaboration. Through this, by the first quarter of this year, over twenty thousand people have been arrested majority of whom are undocumented foreign nationals.

MEC Morweng summed up some of the horrendous crimes that allegedly are committed by some of the illegal miners. "Communities in and around the mining areas bear the worst brunt of it, including sexual offences, muggings, damage to public infrastructure, stock theft and other atrocious criminal activities that makes your skin crawl."



## TRAFFIC POLICE GIVEN NEW VEHICLES TO HEIGHTEN VISIBILITY FOR FESTIVE SEASON



The MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Wessels Morweng says all road users without exception will be expected to comply with traffic regulations. Those who will be caught bending the rules will face the wrath of the law. MEC Morweng said this when handing over new thirty-seven vehicles to traffic officers to ensure visibility on all arterial routes in the Province.

The handing over of the vehicles followed a joint inter-Provincial law enforcement operation with Gauteng Province just outside Potchefstroom led by Minister of Transport, Barbara Creecy.

"If we are to reduce road fatalities, we have to be intentional in our approach. There must be a zero tolerance to all infractions however innocuous they may be", said MEC Morweng.

"We are giving you these new 37 high-powered vehicles to specifically patrol and ensure visibility on N4, N12, N14 and N18. Patrols must also include all regional roads in the Province. The target is to be visible especially during night which statistics have indicated record major crashes", added MEC Morweng.

The vehicles will enable traffic officers to efficiently patrol roads that have previously experienced not only high traffic volume but fatal accidents as well. The elite traffic policing unit, will patrol N4 from Brits Toll Plaza which marks the boundary with Gauteng, all the way down to Skilpadhek which marks the border with neighbouring Botswana. Same patrolling will be on N12, N14, N18, R24, R30, R49 and R510.

Since the 1st of December 2025, most of the fines issued for traffic offences ranged from drunk driving, speeding and reckless and negligent driving. Some of the drivers who were stopped had outstanding warrants of arrests against their traffic fines that they had ignored to pay.

"Traffic officers must clampdown on lawlessness on the road because previous records show that fatalities are as a direct result of excessive speeding, brazen disregard for the law and senseless recklessness.

"We also encourage responsible road usage by pedestrians particularly at night, to ensure that they are visible, avoid jaywalking and cross roads only at designated points," said MEC Morweng.

In the Third quarter, from September 2025, registered vehicles in the country had increased to thirteen million, six hundred forty-six thousand and twenty-nine ( 13 646 029 ) vehicles. Of these, six hundred and eighty-four thousand ( 684 000 ) were registered in the North West. Given that the Province is both thoroughfare for SADC and other Provinces, traffic is expected to heighten as holidaymakers will be coming to or passing through the Province.

"This will add more pressure on the traffic officers and congestion on the roads during peak travel periods is also expected. Added to that, inclement weather as we are in rainy season will also pressure them more. We therefore are appealing to all motorists to work with us. Those that will be in contravention of the law will find us uncompromising", said MEC Morweng.



# GALLERY







# Road Safety Tips for Drivers Towards Pedestrians



The MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management Hon. Wessels Morweng would like wish all road users in the North West province a Merry Christmas and urge them to exercise caution while using the roads during this festive season



- **Be aware of children**

Follow the speed limit and be cautious around residential neighborhoods and school zones.

- **Yield to pedestrians**

When making a turn and waiting for an opening in traffic, be aware that pedestrians may have moved into your path. Pedestrians always have the right-of-way — wait for them to safely reach the sidewalk before proceeding with your turn.

- **Reduce distractions**

Stop using a cellphone, eating, drinking, talking to passengers, reading a map, or changing the radio station it makes your driving more distracted, difficult and dangerous.

- **Approach crosswalks carefully**

If a pedestrian is crossing or about to cross, stop well before you reach them so drivers in other lanes also have time to yield. Never pass another vehicle that has stopped for pedestrians.

- **Follow the speed limit**

Abiding by speed limits increases a driver's ability to watch for pedestrians and adjust for curves or objects in the roadway to help avoid dangerous situations.

- **Be vigilant**

Take extra precautions to spot pedestrians when driving at night or in weather conditions that reduce your ability to see, like driving in fog, rain or snow.

- **Never drink and drive**

If you drink and drive, you're compromising cognitive ability and responsiveness, which increases your risk of hitting someone or having an accident.



# Road Safety Tips for Pedestrians



The MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management Hon. Wessels Morweng would like wish all road users in the North West province a Merry Christmas and urge them to exercise caution while using the roads during this festive season

- Use sidewalks

If no sidewalk is provided, it's usually safer to walk facing oncoming traffic, as far left as possible.

- Be visible

Wear reflective clothes or materials to be visible to drivers. If you're in a very dark area carry a flashlight to help and see where you're going and to increase your visibility.

- Stay alert

There are many distracted drivers on the road, so be aware at all times.

Don't allow your vision to be blocked by clothing, hats or distractions on your cell phone.

Make eye contact with drivers before crossing to confirm they can see you and pay attention to their turn signals.

- Avoid alcohol and drugs

They can greatly impair your ability to walk safely and make good decisions. This also includes some over-the-counter medications.

- Look both ways before you cross

Look left, then right, then left again before crossing. Keep your eyes open as you cross and be aware that drivers might not see you even though you can see them.

- Watch out for parked vehicles

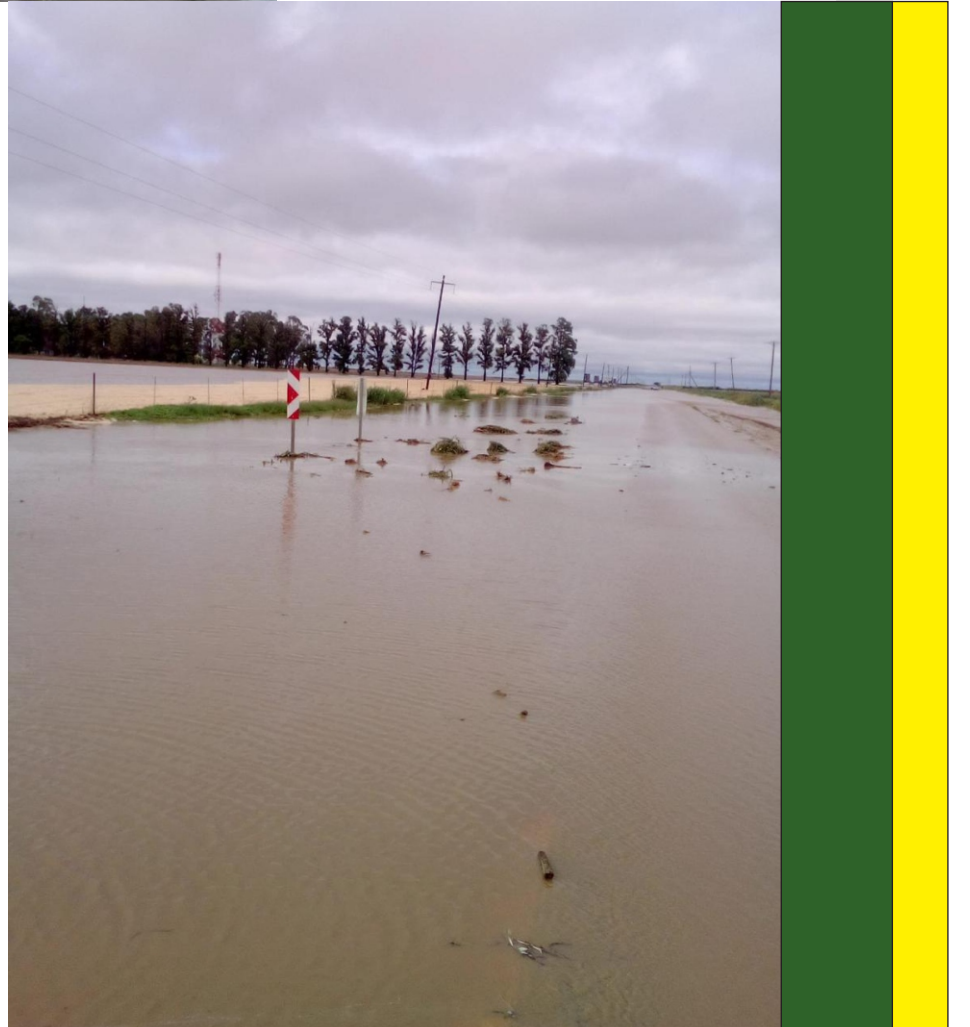
Parking lots can be especially dangerous as many drivers have a limited view when backing out. Drivers may not be expecting anyone to be walking there and extra attention is needed.















**0800 204 992**



**Department of Community Safety  
and Transport Management**



**COSATMA**



**@NWPGCOMMSAFETY**



**nwcosatma@nwpg.gov.za**



**<http://dcstm.nwpg.gov.za>**

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