



**Address by the Honourable MEC Ms Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana, MP
Department of Transport,
Limpopo Provincial AARTO Road Show
Monday, 24 August 2015,
Jack Botes Hall, Polokwane Municipality, Polokwane.**

Programe Director

Executive Mayor of Polokwane, Ms Thembi Nkadimeng

The Chief Operations Officer of the Road Traffic Infringement Agency, Mr Thabo Tsholestane.

Senior management from the Limpopo Department of Transport

Senior management from the Road Traffic Infringement Agency

Ladies and gentlemen

For years now South African road crash statistics have painted a disturbing picture and although the number of road crashes and the subsequent injuries and fatalities sometimes decreases, the figures almost always shoot straight back up again in a few weeks.

This is clearly depicted in a comparison of road crash figures between February 2015 and the Easter weekend a few weeks after that. South Africa recorded 64 road crashes which resulted in 80 fatalities between the 1st of February and the 27th of February.

The Easter break was no different yielding an alarming 208 crashes and 287 fatalities countrywide with 44 of these crashes were recorded in Limpopo. Over 68% of the national road crash death toll in February 2015 was recorded in Limpopo in just four days during the Easter period.

I repeat, over 68% of the national road crash death toll in February 2015 was recorded in Limpopo in just four days during the Easter period.

Ladies and gentlemen I think we can all agree that these figures are staggering and it is clear that this

one step forward and three steps back dance of death/destruction unfolding on our roads cannot continue. Minister Peter's made this clear when she released the 2015 Easter statistics saying, '...individuals need to take responsibility on our roads and reduce the carnage. Let's save lives and move South Africa forward.'

It is said that road crashes occur in the wake of a traffic violation and these alarming figures mean in order to reduce the number of road crashes and fatalities, South Africans need to comply with road traffic laws. The Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences, in short AARTO Act was written and introduced to encourage voluntary compliance with all road traffic laws in South Africa. AARTO then is a game changer, the country's first step towards safer roads and the achievement of the goals the country set out in the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

There are several elements of AARTO that act as a deterrent and encourage a positive behavioural change. The much anticipated points demerit system which will hit repeater offenders the hardest. The more you break traffic laws they more points you accumulate until your licence gets suspended and to get your licence back you will be required to attend mandatory rehabilitation classes.

As the custodian of the AARTO Act and its processes, the Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA) plays the unique role of arbiter of traffic infringements or traffic tickets as they are commonly referred to. This means that they protect your rights as motorist but also ensure that you know your responsibilities and that you are held to account if your have contravened the law.

The Agency's mission is to encourage compliance with road traffic laws in South Africa through:

- targeted road user and community education and communication programmes;
- promotion of procedurally fair, lawful and reasonable administrative adjudication;
- levying of penalties;
- imposing demerit points;
- effective administration and management of the suspension and cancellation of driving licences and operator cards; and
- rewarding compliant road users.

As a roads Agency the RTIA has the task of ensuring safer roads in South Africa. One of the ways the Agency is doing this is through galvanizing the general public in education, through the Petition for a National Prayer Day for Road Safety, which is envisaged to be declared and observed every year on

the first Sunday in the month of October starting this year.

Currently, the RTIA has appointed over eighty young graduates as AARTO Road Safety Ambassadors in the Gauteng Province to influence their peers, educate the community on AARTO and road safety whilst also focusing on collecting signatures (one thousand per petition book) towards achieving the set target. The Department of Transport through the RTIA aims at appointing more young unemployed people, about fifty in each province as AARTO Road Safety Ambassadors to educate communities on road safety and acquiring the more than One Million Signatures for the declaration of National Prayer Day for Road Safety. As a government we have a responsibility to uplift the youth and provide job opportunities and through entities such as the RTIA those opportunities are slowly being realised.

In conclusion we as South Africans need to accept that safer roads will only be achieved if we each change our behavior and voluntarily comply with road laws. AARTO will help us achieve this. Ladies and gentlemen I have the pleasure of letting you know that AARTO is here.