

Be part of ensuring road safety for learners

We are well into the beginning of the new school term and as a result, there is increased traffic on our roads, especially during morning and evening hours occasioned by school runs. With this increase in traffic comes the need to be more responsible road users to ensure safety on the roads, especially for school-going children.

Many have to walk to and from school on narrow, pothole riddled, and poorly lit roads and can therefore be victims of errant drivers. Earlier this week, the police released a set of traffic guidelines to ensure safety of learners.

Mr Micheal Kananura, traffic police spokesperson, said police would deploy at different checkpoints to impound vehicles violating the traffic rules and regulations, especially during morning and evening rush hours.

As mentioned by the traffic police spokesperson, parents should teach their children road safety rules and encourage them to wear helmets for those who use motorcycles as a means of transport.

The issue:

Road safety

Our view:

The school term comes with a lot of pressure and stress occasioned by tight schedules and routines for learners, parents, guardians, school administrators and other stakeholders. However with effective planning and management, it can be a smooth operation for all. Let us all do our best to make it so.

Schools must also ensure a high level of responsibility and accountability from school van or shuttle drivers. Complaints from the public, learners and parents about reckless driving should be heeded and appropriate action taken.

The drivers must have licences and be responsible.

Schools in close proximity of busy roads must ensure a plan for smooth traffic flow during morning and evening rush hours.

The school areas should be clearly demarcated and guides should be placed at the roads to help learners cross safely.

Because of the higher volume of traffic, travel time is bound to increase due to inevitable hold ups and delays. Road users should therefore leave home early enough to avoid speeding and reckless overtaking.

Learners, especially those in candidate classes should not be kept at school late in the night and then expected to walk back home alone.

School administrators and parents must have safety of learners at the fore as they plan for school programmes and pursuit of academic excellence.

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