



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

Councillor Elgina Ndhlovu

Member of the Mayoral Committee
Public Safety

MMC SPEECH-OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE RANDBURG ALCOHOL TESTING CENTRE 29 SEPTEMBER 2009

Programme Director- Ms Vivienne Pearson
Chairperson of the Section 79 for Safety-Cllr Bongani Zondi
Members of the Section 79 Committee for Safety
Fellow Councillors
Acting Chief of Police-Mr David Tembe
Chairperson of the South African Insurance Association: Mr Ronnie Napier
Business Against Crime South Africa-Mr Laurie Dippenaar
Directors and Senior Managers in the City of Johannesburg
The Media
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

Programme Director, the City of Johannesburg is committed to the safety of all users of our public roads. When an accident happens on our roads, the City loses an economic contribution from the one involved in the accident; his or her family loses an income to sustain the family especially if the victim is a bread winner.

From November 2008 to June 2009, the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department tested 2838 motorists suspected of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor. 317 of the 2838 were involved in collisions. Out of the 2838 motorists tested, 2340 were tested at the Drager Alco Breath Test Centre which was launched in November 2008.

Programme Director the launch of this Centre will enable the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department to increase its capacity to extend the service to more road users. Our aim as a Department is to discourage road users, particularly drivers who get behind the steering wheel after having taken alcohol. We wish to encourage road users to always have a person to drive them after a party or function who has not consumed any alcohol.

Programme Director, the trauma which our Officers and Emergency Management Services Personnel have to go through after witnessing some of the horrific accidents which could have been avoided only if someone else who has not consumed any alcohol should have driven is beyond description. The family members of victims, their employers and society at large end up losing a valuable contributor to our economy.

The Centre Programme Director will assist not only the City, but other stakeholders as well to reduce accidents and the high costs which have been alluded to by the previous speaker.

Law enforcement in the City should not be seen by road users as punitive but rather redemptive. I say this programme Director because this Centre is meant to save property and above all, lives which are lost on a daily basis as a result of people driving under the influence.

Programme Director let me end by urging all road users to be responsible and think about the future of our country which is also in their hands.
I thank you.