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**Subject:** MEDIA RELEASE: City activates Easter safety plan

## **CITY OF CAPE TOWN**

**26 MARCH 2018**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **City activates Easter safety plan**

***The City of Cape Town's Easter safety plan will follow the festive season safety blueprint, with key focus areas that include roads, events and beach safety. Read more below:***

The City's Safety and Security Directorate has started activating its Easter safety campaign.

From today until Thursday 29 March 2018, motorists can have free vehicle safety checks done at any City-owned vehicle testing station.

Public transport operators are also encouraged to be part of Operation Exodus, which focuses on driver and vehicle fitness for long-distance operators.

These special focus operations are conducted over and above the day-to-day enforcement operations run by the City's Metro Police, Law Enforcement and Traffic Service departments.

'Road safety will always be one of our priorities over the holiday periods. Easter coincides with the school holidays this year, so we expect many people to take a break from work and head to other parts of the country. If you're a private motorist, make sure your vehicle is in good working order. The same goes for public transport operators who have thousands of lives in their hands.

'Of course, the bigger concern is the behaviour of drivers and the absolute contempt that many have for the law. In the last week, our traffic officers arrested 132 motorists for driving drunk, reckless and negligent driving and outstanding warrants. These statistics are par for the course, not to mention the increase in recent months in the number of public transport drivers who are found to be drunk behind the wheel,' said the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Safety and Security; and Social Services, Alderman JP Smith.

On the beaches and at tidal pools, 172 lifeguards will be on duty until 9 April 2018 when the school holidays end. Their hours of operation will be from 10:00 until 18:00 daily and they will be on duty at the following beaches: Kogel Bay, Harmony Park, Strand, Macassar, Monwabisi, Mnandi, Blue Waters, Strandfontein, Sunrise Beach, Muizenberg, Danger Beach, Kalk Bay, Fish Hoek, Hout Bay, Llandudno, Clifton 4<sup>th</sup>, Camps Bay, Milnerton, Melkbosstrand, Big Bay and Silwerstroom.

Five City-owned swimming pools will be open with lifeguards on duty between 10:00 and 16:00 and these include the Blue Downs indoor, Long Street indoor, Mnandi, Sea Point and Strand indoor pool.

'While the weather has started to turn, we expect that there might be some good conditions in the forecast that will draw people to the beach or the swimming pools that are operational at this time. I urge the public to please swim only in areas where lifeguards are present and to obey their instructions. We had a tragic incident at Monwabisi this weekend where three people drowned and we will do everything possible to prevent further incidents. However, we need the public to play their part. This also includes not drinking on the beaches which is in contravention of our by-laws,' added Alderman Smith.

**End**

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