

Vuk'uzenzele

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Plans to protect women and children

President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced an emergency plan to deal with the violence against women and children in the country. Addressing a Joint Sitting of the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces recently, the President said the plan strengthens existing measures and introduces new interventions in five principal areas.

These areas include;

- How to prevent gender-based violence
- Strengthening the criminal justice system
- Steps that need to be taken to enhance the legal and policy framework
- What can be done to ensure adequate care, support and healing for victims of violence
- Measures to improve the



economic power of women in South Africa.

"This emergency action plan

will be driven by an Interim Steering Committee located in the Presidency and co-chaired

by government and civil society organisations.

"The Steering Committee will coordinate rapid response at national level. The plan will be implemented over the next six months," the President said.

He called for the Joint Sitting to focus the attention of elected public representatives and the nation at large on the crisis of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

"To enhance the safety of women, we are going to, as a matter of urgency, make the necessary amendments to our laws and policies to ensure that perpetrators of GBV are brought to book. We will make substantial additional funding available for a comprehensive package of interventions to make an immediate and lasting difference.




"Cabinet has resolved to direct R1.1 billion in additional funding in this financial year to the comprehensive response to GBV. It is government's intention that the funds appropriated for this programme will be raised from within the current budget allocation and will not require additional borrowing," the President said.

Prevention measures

Government will launch a mass media campaign that will target communities, public spaces, workplaces, higher education institutions and schools, as well as recreational spaces.

"As part of this campaign, we are going to provide gender sensitivity training to law-enforcement officials, prosecutors, magistrates and policy makers – and ensure that

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Aarto encourages safer driving behaviour



■ Minister of Transport Fikile Mbalula informing the public about AARTO.

Allison Cooper

Drivers need to be extra vigilant when it comes to sticking to speed limits and obeying road rules, following President Cyril Ramaphosa's signing of the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (Aarto) Amendment Act into law in August.

Aarto, which is being introduced to improve law-abiding and safer driving behaviour to reduce road accidents, will be implemented once it has been gazetted.

The Department of Transport says it will help address the higher number of road accidents.

"The Aarto Act is an objective and fair system of identifying reckless drivers and law breakers so that we can remove them from the driving fold," said Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula.

"We will be able to adequately address the carnage on our roads. We are burying far too many people as a result of crashes. In 2018 alone, 12 921 people lost their lives in road collisions in South Africa. Each death represented an average loss of R4.6 million to the economy, in terms of lost productivity, pain and suffering and legal and funeral costs," he said.

Under the Act, failing to pay traffic fines can lead to a block on obtaining driving and vehicle licences and an administrative fee, in addition to other penalties.

The Act also states that documents, which previously had to be delivered by registered mail through the post office, can now be served electronically and reminders can be sent via WhatsApp and SMS. The Minister said driver rehabilitation programmes would be put in place for infringers who have their licences suspended. "This shows that Aarto is not just about punishment, but has intentions to ensure compliance and change road user behaviour,"

he explained.

The demerit system

The Aarto demerit system will penalise drivers and operators who are guilty of infringements or offences, by allocating demerit points that could lead to the suspension and cancellation of driving licences, professional driving permits or operator cards. Every licenced driver starts with zero points. Points accumulate for every act that is against the law, until they reach a maximum of 12. Depending on the severity of an offence, between one and six points can be allocated at a time.

A person is allowed to drive

until he/she reaches 12 points, thereafter any more points result in a licence suspension.

When your licence is suspended you must immediately hand in any driving licence or professional driving permit to the issuing authority for retention during the disqualification period.

You may also not apply for a driving licence, professional driving permit or operator card during the disqualification period.

Any person who drives or operates a motor vehicle during his or her disqualification period is guilty of an offence and liable, on conviction, to a fine or imprisonment for

a period not exceeding one year or to both a fine and imprisonment.

When the disqualification period has ended, you may re-apply for and be issued with a licence. However, when a licence has been suspended for the third time, it is cancelled. Unlicensed drivers will receive no discount and their demerit points will only start to reduce once their licence is issued. However, unlicensed drivers caught for the third time will be arrested.

If you elect to go to court for an offence, demerit points are only recorded when you are found guilty.

If you appeal against a conviction, no demerit points are recorded unless the appeal is rejected or abandoned. Nothing prevents you from approaching a court to appeal or review the total amount of demerit points recorded against your name.

"We will be able to adequately address the carnage on our roads."

The demerit system also rewards law-abiding drivers by reducing one point, every three months, if no infringements have occurred. Points can be reduced until the driver again reaches zero points. Minister Mbalula said it was clear that with the increasing carnage on South Africa's roads, something has to be done to bring unlawful drivers to book.

"We have won an important battle, but the war on road fatalities is not yet over. Here is to many victories ahead, as we work together to ensuring safer roads," said Minister Mbalula. **U**



Maatskaplike toelaes verskaf 'n lewenslyn aan miljoene

MAANDELIKSE BETALINGS van die regering verskaf aan Suid-Afrika se kwesbaarste mense 'n kernbelangrike veiligheidsnet.



Silusapho Nyanda

Om te verseker dat Suid-Afrika se kwesbaarste burgers beskerm word, betaal die regering elke maand meer as 17 miljoen maatskaplike toelaes.

’n Maatskaplike toelae verwys na staatsbefondsing wat betaal word aan Suid-Afrikaners wat sukkel om op hulle eie reg te kom. Die administrasie van die maatskaplike toelae word deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Agentskap vir Maatskaplike Sekerheid (SASSA), ’n entiteit wat deur die staat besit word, hanteer. Dié entiteit is geskep om bestaansekereheidsdienste te lewer om armoede teë te werk.

Daar is verskeie maatskaplike toelaes beskikbaar, wat op aansoekers se behoeftes gegrond is. Dit is die toelae vir ouer persone, ook bekend as die ouderdomspensioen;

kinderondersteuningstoelae; sorgafhanklikheidstoelae; oppasserstoelae vir mense wat ’n maatskaplike toelae kry maar iemand nodig om na hulle om te sien; oudstrydertoelae; pleegsorgtoelae; en ongeskiktheidstoelae.



Ongeskiktheidstoelae

Die toelae vir mense wat met gestremdhede leef, is R1 780. Aansoekers moet aan sekere kriteria voldoen om hiervoor in aanmerking te kom.

Jy kan vir ’n ongeskiktheidstoelae aansoek doen as jy ’n fisiese of geestelike gestremdheid het wat jou vir ’n tydperk van ses maande

of langer ongeskik vir werk maak.

Wanneer jy aansoek doen, moet jy ’n ongeskiktheidstoelae-aansoekvorm by jou naaste SASSA-tak, in die teenwoordigheid van ’n SASSA-beampte, invul.

Jy moet ook ’n beëdigde verklaring of ’n standaard-SASSA-vorm in die teenwoordigheid van ’n Kommissaris van Ede, wat nie ’n SASSA-ampenaar is nie, voltooi.

Die staat vereis ook ’n beëdigde verklaring wat deur ’n persoon van goeie naam onderteken is en ’n aansoeker se naam en ouderdom kan staaf.

Verskaf ook bewys van bates — insluitend die munisipale waarde van enige eiendom wat jy besit, bewys van privaat pensioen, ’n Werkloosheidsversekeringsfondsdokument, afdankingsdokument van jou vorige werkgewer as jy voorheen gewerk het, en, indien jou eggenoot in die afgelope vyf

jaar oorlede is, ’n afskrif van die testament en eerste en finale likwidasië- en verdeelingsrekening.

As jy ’n vlugteling is, moet jy ’n vlugtelingstatuspermit en ’n 13-syfer-vlugtelings-identiteitsdokument verskaf.

Om te kwalifiseer moet jy ook:

- ’n Suid-Afrikaanse burger of permanente inwoner of vlugteling wees wat ten tyde van die aansoek in Suid-Afrika woon,
- Tussen 18- en 59-jarige ouderdom wees,
- Nie in ’n staatsinstansie versorg word nie,
- ’n Suid-Afrikaanse ID-boekie hê,
- Nie meer as R78 120 verdien as jy enkellopend is, of R156 240 as jy getroud is nie,
- Nie bates besit ter waarde van meer as R1 115 400 as jy enkellopend

is, of R2 230 800 as jy getroud is, nie.

- ’n Mediese ondersoek ondergaan waar ’n dokter wat deur die staat aangestel is die graad van jou gestremdheid sal bepaal, en
- Enige vorige mediese rekords en verslae saambring wanneer jy aansoek doen en wanneer die assessering gedoen word.

Ouderdomstoelae

Dié toelae het ten doel om bejaardes te help. ’n Ouderdomstoelae word aan mense wat 60 jaar of ouer is betaal.

Die ontvanger moet:

- Nie meer as R78 120 verdien as jy enkellopend is, of R156 240 as jy getroud is nie, en
- Nie bates besit ter waarde van meer as R1 115 400 as jy enkellopend is, of R2 230 800 as jy getroud is, nie.
- Ontvangers kry R1 780 per maand en diegene wat ouer as 75 jaar is, kry R1 800.

SASSA betaal die toelae in kontant aan die ontvangers op spesifieke dae by bepaalde betaalpunte. Dit word ook via ’n elektroniese deposito in ’n bank- of Posbankrekening of aan instansies soos ouetehuse betaal. **!**

Dié inligting is deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Agentskap vir Maatskaplike Sekerheid (SASSA), verskaf.

**Kontak SASSA by
012 400 2000 of gaan na
www.sassa.gov.za vir meer
inligting oor maatskaplike
toelaes.**

Het jy geweet?

Vuk'uzenzele Koerant gaan 'n reeks artikels oor die verskillende tipes toelaes publiseer. Dit is om saam te val met Oktober, wat maatskaplike-ontwikkelingsmaand is.