

14 die on roads in Western Cape

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Easter weekend road deaths in the Western Cape decreased from 20 last year to just 14 this year, the provincial government said on Monday (7 April).



The provincial government has embarked on several campaigns - some of which have proved to be unpopular with motorists - in an attempt to reduce the number of fatal road accidents in the province.

Last year Western Cape transport MEC Robin Carlisle raised eyebrows when he announced that sleepy motorists will now be pulled off the road and have their keys confiscated in a move to lower accidents caused by fatigue.

"While the fatalities were well below the previous years, Easter fatalities have varied widely over the last five years. Despite the very low fatalities for Easter 2011, the long trend line shows that figures remain below the average since 2009," Carlisle said on Monday (7 April).

"Our provincial and municipal traffic services, as well as our partners from the South African Police Services, the Road Traffic Management Corporation and National Traffic Police Unit are to be commended for the tireless work that they put into ensuring that reckless and irresponsible road users are brought to book so that safety can prevail on our roads," the MEC said.

Carlisle said the Easter period had shown that buckling-up and pedestrian safety remained a serious concern.

"As we continue to see motorist behaviour change, so too must (that of) passengers, particularly back-seat passengers, and pedestrians. People must realise how vulnerable they are when travelling in a vehicle and recognise the dangers that they often place themselves in by not complying with road rules," said Carlisle.

Source: *Business Day* via I-Net Bridge

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