

...a man from the hospital who are not for
...HOW TO CONTACT US

PREGA GOVENDER

THE Automobile Association (AA) has described road fatalities during the festive season as "shocking".

This comes in the wake of comments reportedly made by road safety consultant Rob Handfield-Jones that road deaths between December 1 and 30 last year were likely to be the highest recorded since 2007.

Altogether 1 184 deaths were recorded in December last year as a result of 987 fatal crashes. There were 205 crashes in KwaZulu-Natal, 156 in Gauteng and 136 in the Eastern Cape.

Handfield-Jones reportedly said he expected the death toll to reach 1 736 by January 13.

AA spokesman Graeme Scala said: "As a country, we are at the bottom of the rung. We have some of the worst statistics in the world."

The Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) will release road-death statistics on Tuesday.

Scala said the licensing process needed to be overhauled because bribery and corruption often took place at licensing offices in exchange for drivers' licences. "Instead of just prosecuting for speed, we need to prosecute people for unroad-worthy vehicles and also un-

licensed drivers on the road." He said traffic blitzes needed to be conducted throughout the year.

"Introduce a temporary licence for new drivers to be valid for, say, two years. Root out bribery and corruption because it's too easy to pay a bribe and get off a drunk-driving charge."

Caro Smit, director and founder of South Africans Against Drunk Driving, said most provinces, other than the Western Cape, were not conducting enough roadblocks. She said one of the biggest problems was the low conviction rate for

Bribery 'accelerates festive road deaths'

drunk driving.

"Often it's because the blood was not drawn correctly or forms were not filled in correctly. People are getting away on a technicality. That's the frightening thing."

She said the AA's research showed that one in eight drivers was drunk at night.

Meanwhile, traffic on the main arterial routes is expected to increase this weekend and next week as holidaymakers return home.

RTMC spokesman Thato Moseena said it was expecting between 1 000 and 2 000 vehicles

an hour on certain routes.

These include:
● N1 between Limpopo and Gauteng;

● N1 between the Free State and Western Cape;

● N3 between KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and Gauteng;

● N4 between Gauteng and Mpumalanga;

● N2 between KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape;

● N12 between Western Cape, Northern Cape and Gauteng;

● N4 between North West and Gauteng.

Rwanda hits

men on Monday at about 4pm at the hotel and

January 4 2014

13 20 22 24 46 48 35

Tides

Low/High Low/High

TODAY'S WEATHER

15

Musina 20/31

Phokwane