THE TRANSPORT RESEARCH FORUM

(A Forum of the Road Safety Foundation)

Once again, to all of you, our wonderful partners who participated on our event on the 21st June, a huge 'Thank You' for your effort and time.

I would like to reiterate the objectives of the evening, prior to sharing the results of the research.

Firstly, we had received reports of trucks operating with scanned vehicle license discs and incorrect number plates. The research methodology was to compare the VIN No on the disc to that of the physical Manufacturer's plate on the vehicle by a visual inspection.

Secondly, as a follow up on a previous campaign, and in order to allow an average result, trucks with defective lights were recorded. Only headlights and taillights were investigated – lights between these two were not included ie rear of a truck tractor with trailer/s.

Thirdly, to create an opportunity to educate the public with regards to the recently installed law enforcement cameras, with a focus on how the average speed component operates as well as the other law enforcement tools available on the system ie fraudulent licenses, expired licenses and incorrect number plates.

STATISTICAL RESULTS:

During the period 15:00 – 23:00, a total of **1407** Class 4 (Heavies) were recorded northbound at Tugela Plaza, of which **223** were stopped and inspected..

During this period, ***2 vehicles (0,9%)*** were found to have incorrect number plates and non corresponding license discs. A further ***8 vehicles (3,6%)*** were found to have expired licenses.

During the period 18:00 – 23:00, a total of 918 Class 4 (Heavies) were recorded northbound at Tugela Plaza, of which ***97 (10,6%)*** were found to have defective lights. This percentage is marginally better than our previous research at the same venue last year, where we recorded an **11,3%** of trucks with defective lighting **(117 out of a sample size of 1031 vehicles).** Combining the total number of trucks over these two exercises, the average percentage of trucks recorded with defective lighting computes to **10,98%.** In real terms, this relates to just over one in ten heavy vehicles have defective lighting.

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