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City of Johannesburg
Johannesburg Roads Agency

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MEDIA RELEASE

HEAVY RAINS IN JOBURG

South Africa is in its rainy season. The Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA), a City-owned Agency responsible for the maintenance, repair and development of Johannesburg's road network and storm water infrastructure, including bridges and culverts, traffic lights and signage; is urging road users to exercise caution and adopt a more preventive approach to rains. Most lives are lost during rains than in any other weather-related event. This includes flash floods, slippery roads, faulty traffic lights etc.

Flooding can be caused by heavy rainfall and long periods of rain. Flash floods are often instant, can last for anything from a few minutes to several hours, and can occur without warning. When practicing safety on rainy days the following signs should be watched for:

- Unusually hard rain over several hours
- Steady substantial rain over several days
- Rains in conjunction with a spring thaw
- Water rising rapidly in streams and rivers

Motorists are also advised not to do the following:

- Drive through flooded areas even if it looks shallow enough to cross!
- Drive or let anyone drive through flood waters! If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Drive into water covering the road. You do not know how deep it is or if the road is washed away.

Pedestrians may be washed away by water when crossing through the water or crossing low lying bridges.

Residents are advised to keep stormwater drains clean to allow free water flow; they should refrain from dumping inside storm water drains.

Directors:
Chairman: K Shubane, Managing Director: DS Macozoma, Non-Executive Directors:
M Maimane, Dr J Maina, N Msezane, E Ngomane, L Mashamaite, L Nxumalo, H Mashele,
Company Secretary: Adv. TP Bokako

Registration No. 2000/028993/07

Motorists are also advised to drive cautiously and avoid speed by all means. Roads are slippery during rains because of the oil emanating from leaking cars and spillages. Most traffic lights are also knocked down by speeding and reckless drivers during rains, putting the lives of innocent people at risk.

To ensure that traffic lights remain operational despite adverse conditions, the Agency is embarking on numerous initiatives such as converting traffic lights located on busy main roads to solar and uninterrupted power supply, replacing cables systematically on a continuous cycle and also decentralising technicians who are now based and operating from the seven regions, closer to customers.

Every resident is expected to be an active and responsible participant in shaping the future of the City and the general well-being of society. All incidents must be reported to JMPD, SAPS, City of Joburg's call centre number on 0860JOBURG (562874).

ENDS

Issued on behalf of the Johannesburg Roads Agency
Public Relations and Communications

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