

Donation helps learners get to school

KNOWING that school children die from accidents every year when crossing the roads to school, Director of KJ Motor Towing and Repairs, Kgabo Manabile, decided to donate scholar patrol equipment to Sekgwari Primary School in Setumong, Ga-Matlala on 16 March 2016. The equipment includes four stop signs, eight reflective vests, four caps, white traffic gloves and whistles. Almost 90% of the school learners cross the public road near the school every day. Manabile said the donation came after he realised the road close to the school is always busy and he hopes his donation will help make drivers around the school aware that pedestrians and learners are present.

“With lots of excitement at school every day, the learners are not always concerned with traffic on the busy roads surrounding their schools,” said Manabile. He said motorists will also be notified that they are approaching a school area with the help of schoolzone signs. “Many drivers don’t respect the pedestrians, especially at crossing zones. They only take notice of traffic officers but we believe with this donation they will now obey the rules of the road as the learners will be acting as traffic officers for others to cross the roads safely. Every child is my child, it is my responsibility to ensure that all the children are always safe,” he said.

He said he had personally come across several accidents within the Aganang Municipality in which learners were involved. “It is crucial for us to ensure we respect everyone’s lives on the roads.”

Road Safety Officer with the Department of Transport, Mokato Mogashoa, urged pedestrians to be extra careful when crossing the road. Sekgwari Primary School learners are delighted with their new school crossing signs. “During our scholar patrols, we come across several challenges whereby we see learners get to school late because they struggle to cross the roads. Our duty is to ensure that the roads have signs and we work together with the Department of Public Works to make sure the roads are safe for our people. We appreciate Manabile’s dedication and we believe his donation will make a huge difference,” said Mogashoa. Kwena Mashiane (12), is a Gr 7 learner who wants to be a traffic officer after completing his studies.

“I want to become a traffic officer and I think this will encourage me to work hard towards my studies,” said Mashiane. Speaking on behalf of the Aganang Municipal Traffic Department, Acting Supt Emmanuel Dihangwane said this really shows there are drivers who understand and respect the rules of the road, and this is highly appreciated. “The Traffic Department calls on all businesses to assist in bringing development, especially to our deep rural areas. We are going to continue working hard in ensuring that our people are always safe on the roads.

As we approach the Easter holidays, the department warns all the reckless drivers they will be dealt with harshly if they fail to obey the road rules and signs,” said Dihangwane. Phuti Ramoshaba, a teacher, said they are always concerned over the learners’ safety when crossing the road near the school. “We believe this donation will be safer for our learners and give them motivation and inspiration towards their studies,” said Ramoshaba.