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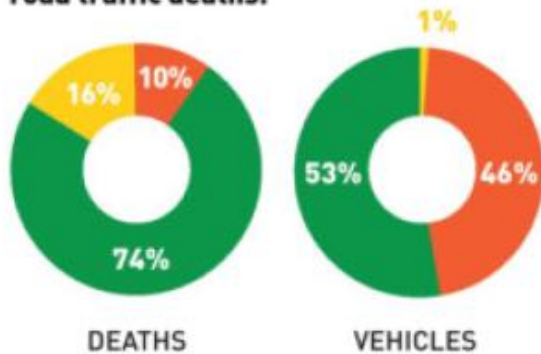
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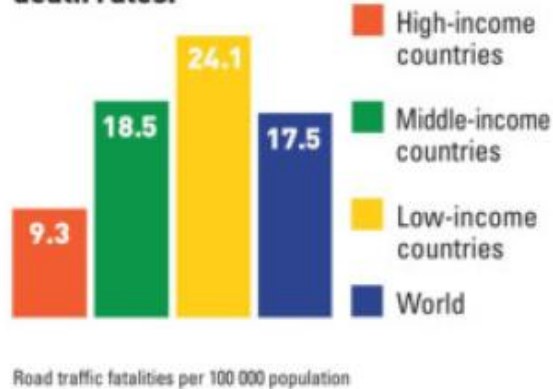
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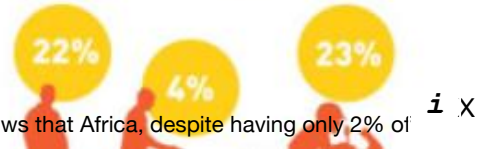
Although low- and middle-income countries have only half of the world's vehicles, they have 90% of the world's road traffic deaths.



Low-income countries have the highest road traffic death rates.



The chance of dying in a road traffic crash depends on where you live



The World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Status Report on Road Safety shows that Africa, despite having only 2% of

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Africa: world leader in traffic deaths

NEWS / 20 October 2015 at 10:36am

By: **KAMCILLA PILLAY**

Durban - An international report has shown that Africa, while home to only 2% of the world's cars, also has the world's highest road traffic death rates.

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global Status Report on Road Safety – drawing from 180 countries – shared these and other findings after its release at a press briefing in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday before the 2nd Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety to be held in Brasilia, Brazil, next month.

A Daily News reporter will attend the conference, which will see 1 500 delegates from all over the world gathering to review progress in the Decade of Action for Road Safety (from 2011 to 2020).

One of the aims is to halve the number of deaths and injuries from crashes by 2020.

The report found the risk of dying in a road traffic crash still depended, in great part, on where people lived and how they moved around.

“A big gap separates high-income countries from low- and middle-income ones where 90% of road traffic deaths occur in spite of having just 54% of the world’s vehicles.

Europe, in particular the region’s wealthier countries, has the lowest death rates per capita; Africa the highest.”

The countries in Africa belong to the low- and middle-income groups.

Director at the Department for Management of Non-communicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention at WHO, Etienne Krug, said at the briefing the whole continent, and not one country in particular, suffered the effects of the “huge problem”.

“We are concerned about the whole of Africa,” he said.

South Africa was one of the countries whose statistics were examined.

There were 13 802 reported road fatalities between 2010 and 2011, according to statistics from the Road Traffic Management Corporation as cited in the report. Of these, 33% were pedestrians; 29% were drivers of light vehicles; and 38% were passengers in light vehicles.

The data represents the road-safety situation three years into the decade and shows that 1.25 million people are killed each year on the world’s roads.

While the figure seems astronomical, the organisation said the situation had plateaued since 2007.

“(This is the situation) despite the global increase in population and motorisation ...

“This suggests that interventions implemented over the past few years to improve global road safety have saved lives.”

But, in South Africa, while laws and legislation to monitor the use of the country’s roadways existed, enforcement continued to be a challenge.

In enforcing national speed- limit law, for example, South Africa scored only three out of 10 points in the report’s scoring system.

South Africa scored four out of 10 in the enforcement of drunk-driving laws and five and two for national motorcycle helmet and national seat-belt laws.

“Lack of enforcement frequently undermines the potential of road-safety laws to reduce injuries and deaths. More effort needs to be placed in optimising enforcement efforts,” said the report.

Despite this assessment, there have been moves to improve enforcement and increase the number of traffic cops.

The Department of Transport said in January it would be intensifying talks with labour organisations to change the basic conditions of employment for traffic officers to allow for after-hours enforcement – after announcing that 80% of road fatalities statistically happened on residential roads, with 31% occurring between 10pm and 6am.

Daily News

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Capitalism sucks, EFF marchers tell JSE

Julius Malema leads thousands of EFF supporters to the JSE to deliver a message to “bloody racists”.

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SPORT



Springboks set for bronze-medal clash

South Africa will face Argentina in the Rugby World Cup third-place playoff match this week.

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#FreeBacon movement gains traction

Bacon fans take to social media to vent after the WHO's warning on the perils of processed meat.

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TONIGHT



Halle and Olivier call it quits

Oscar winner Halle Berry and Frenchman Olivier Martinez have decided to divorce after two years of marriage.

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Malema lashes out at 'racist' JSE

The EFF leader said the Stock Exchange was full of racists who didn't want to be near black people. (VIDEO).

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(/news/politics/malema-lashes-out-at-racist-jse-1936776)

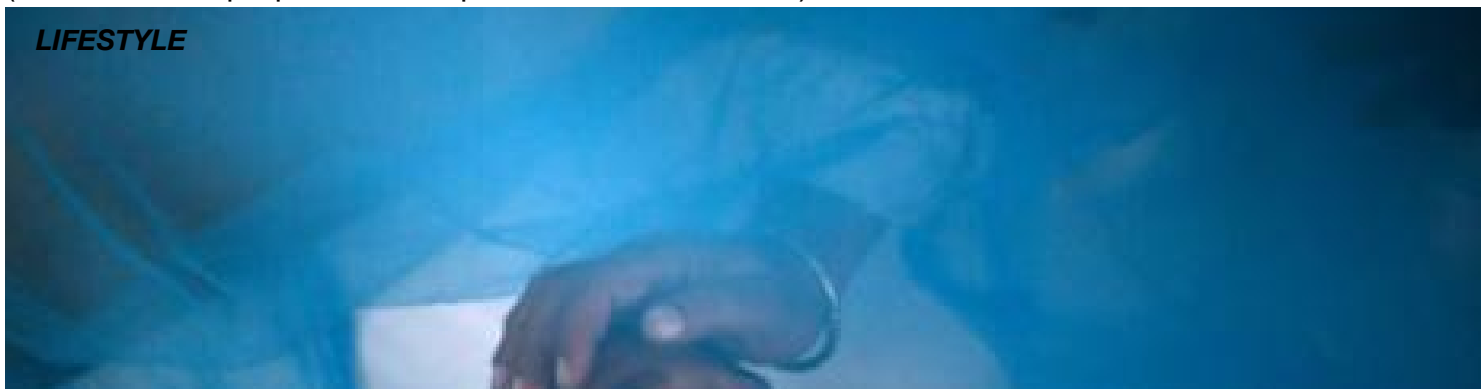


Timol, a proponent of equal education

Ahmed Timol's story is remarkably similar to that of many young people today, writes Zaakirah Vadi.

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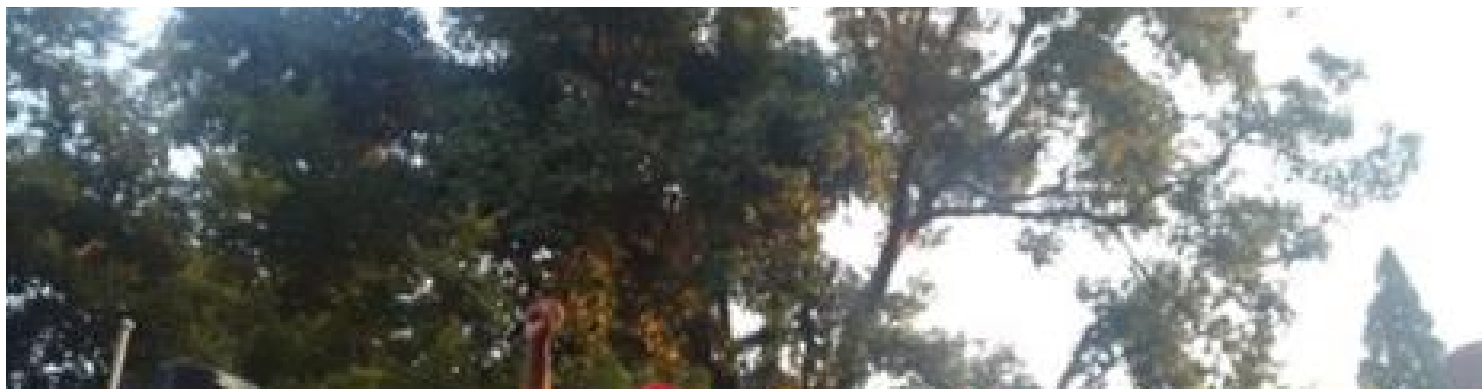


Sleeping less? Don't blame modern life

People in technologically primitive cultures get no more sleep than the rest of us, research shows.

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Malema sends warning to whites

“We are not anti-white, we are for all but particular black people. White minority you have been warned.”.

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Lovers' quarrel ends in family murder

A lovers' quarrel ends in the murder of two sisters and a brother-in-law.

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Son died saving dad

"Watch out Dad! He's going to shoot you," shouted a KZN man who died shielding his father from armed robbers.

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[\(/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/son-died-saving-dad-1936741\)](/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/son-died-saving-dad-1936741)



Bill Cosby accuser sues ex-prosecutor

The prosecutor who refused to file a woman's sex abuse charges is accused of being politically motivated.

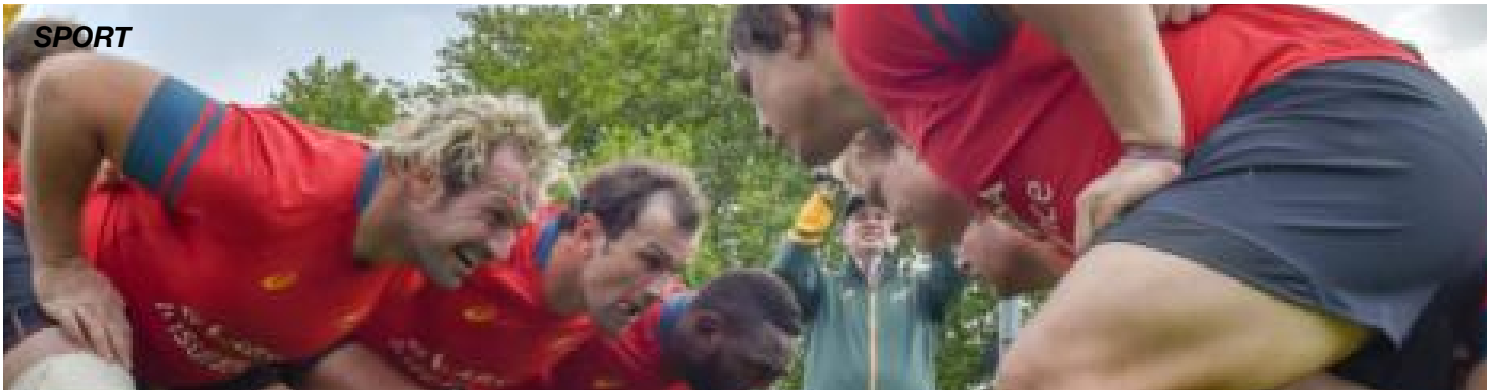
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[\(/tonight/news/international/bill-cosby-accuser-sues-ex-prosecutor-1936223\)](/tonight/news/international/bill-cosby-accuser-sues-ex-prosecutor-1936223)



Teacher can't bank on his salary

Tshwane teacher Joshua Hlongoane has incurred a lot of debt - all because his salary goes into a wrong bank account.

[\(/news/south-africa/gauteng/teacher-cant-bank-on-his-salary-1936722\)](/news/south-africa/gauteng/teacher-cant-bank-on-his-salary-1936722) 12 hours ago



Boks need a real shake-up

What the Boks need is a change in attitude, writes Jacques van der Westhuyzen.

[\(/sport/boks-need-a-real-shake-up-1936706\)](/sport/boks-need-a-real-shake-up-1936706) 13 hours ago

SPORT



Tokyo vows to 'follow the money'

Tokyo Sexwale said he would "follow the money" to rid football's ruling body of corruption.

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What's driving recall revolution?

34.5 million vehicles were recalled in the first seven months of 2015, more than any previous year except 2014.

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PICS: EFF marchers breach JSE security

Marchers broke through a security barrier at the stock exchange and camped out outside the main entrance. (VIDEO).

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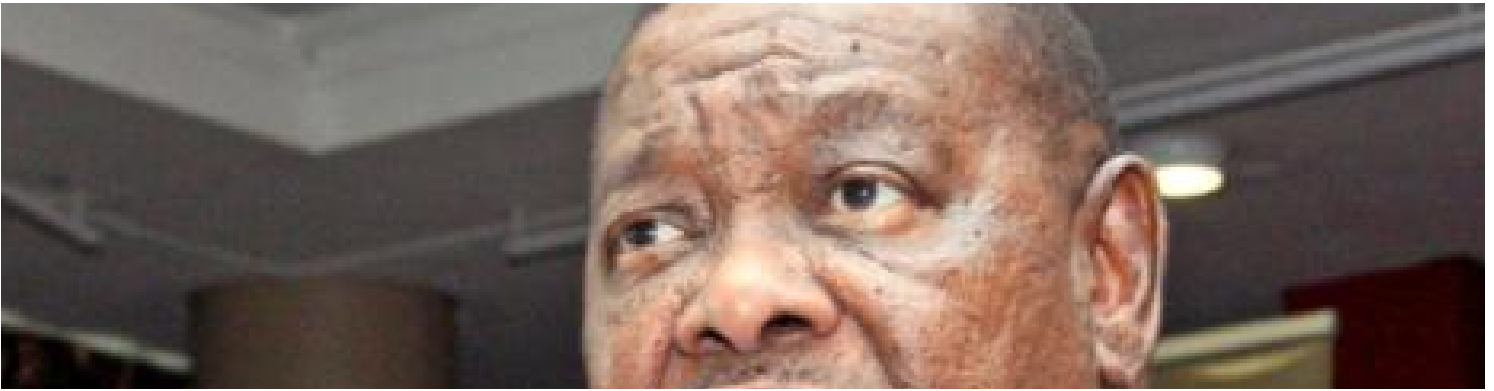


Away with Americans: EFF's Shivambu

As the Economic Freedom march passed the American consulate, Floyd Shivambu told marcher that America is the enemy.

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Time to regulate university fees: Nzimande

The Higher Education Minister told MPs a number of options were on the table to make tertiary education accessible to all.

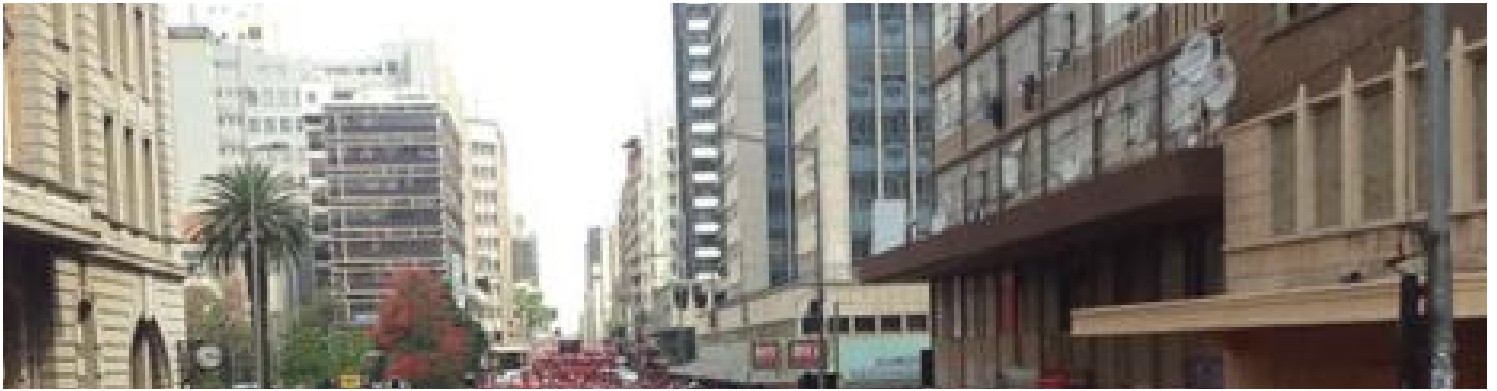
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(</news/politics/time-to-regulate-university-fees-nzimande-1936708>)



Rosebank workers join EFF march

When the EFF's Economic Freedom March reached Rosebank, some workers abandoned their workstations to join in.

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(</news/politics/rosebank-workers-join-eff-march-1936699>)



30 000 EFF supporters march to Sandton

The crowd participating in the EFF's Economic Freedom March has now swelled to over 30 000 people.

(/news/politics/30-000-eff-supporters-march-to-sandton-1936646) ^{16 hours ago}