

# Frenzy as learners visit traffic centre

**BY SIPHO NONE**

More than 100 learners from the Patrick Mashego Public School in Reitvallei Extension 2 and 3, near Azaadville in Kagiso were in a joyous mood when they were taken on a rigorous road safety education.

The grade 1 learners, who at the beginning of the theory lessons appeared nervous, showed eagerness and enthusiasm when they were taken on a practical session around the Junior Traffic Training Centre at the Coronation Park.

Papi Motaung the Mogale City Local Municipality's Public Safety Traffic Officer said the road safety education is held throughout the year and is aimed at teaching learners about the road safety at a tender age.

"We are happy that our schools are responding positive as and when we invite them to a road safety education," Motaung said.

"The most important thing is that ever since we have conducted these sessions, the number of fatalities on the road has dropped drastically. And we hope that this is due to the fact that the learners have taken the knowledge home and are practicing it when they at their respective places."

The theory session included road traffic signs and how to behave and respond to traffic officers, scholar patrols and traffic wardens. The practical session saw the excited learners eager to ride on toy bikes and wheels around the Centre.

Motaung with the assistance of the traffic officers and wardens took the learners through a two hour ride around the Centre, teaching the learners the basics on the roads traffic rules and signs. Most of the learners were so excited such that they went on to mimic the sounds of the motor vehicles hooters and screeches of the tyres.

Excited and beaming with smiles, one of the learners Olwethu Mkwai said: "I have enjoyed a lot and am happy to be part of this education session. I have learned a lot on road safety and I'm looking forward to teach my friends about road safety tips."

The city's Traffic and Security manager, within the social services department, William Ncefu, said: "Road safety education is very much important and our department takes it [road safety education] very serious."

"We have experienced more fatalities on the road both young people and adults, and have realised that this is due to the lack of knowledge on road safety. In most cases people get hurt because they cross at dangerous places of the road, and kids get hurt because they think that when they cross at these areas they can run faster than motor vehicles, which is not the case."

"I'm happy for our officers for taking this initiative because ever since they took the learners through this education session we have seen a huge drop in the number of fatalities on the road, and we are looking forward to involve adults in future," Ncefu added.

More than 3000 learners around Mogale City schools were taken through the road safety education, and Ncefu and his traffic officers and wardens are planning to hold a public seminar on road safety.