



The International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) 2018

Stakeholders came in large numbers in attending today's International Level Crossing Awareness Day (ILCAD) at Buttskop Level Crossing in Blackheath (Area North). The below list of more than Fifty (50+) stakeholders (internal & external) attended today's proceedings that included community members:

EXTERNAL

- ✚ Railway Safety Regulator,
- ✚ Transnet Freight Rail,
- ✚ City of Cape Town's Road Safety Education traffic,
- ✚ City of Cape Town's Traffic department,
- ✚ The Provincial department of Transport's Road Safety Management directorate,
- ✚ The Greater Blue Downs Ministers Fraternal

INTERNAL (Metrorail)

- ✚ Marketing & Communication department
- ✚ Protection Services department,
- ✚ Business Risk Department,
- ✚ Rolling Stock department,
- ✚ Train Operations department,
- ✚ Customer Services department

ILCAD 2018's awareness campaign concentrated its message on **"Young level crossing users"** with the slogan: **Don't beat the train!"**



Some of the activities conducted this year were:

- ✚ Distribution of flyers on rail and road safety,
- ✚ Validation of motor vehicle discs by the traffic department officials,
- ✚ Issuing of traffic fines to motorists and
- ✚ Making rail and road safety announcements.

Addressing officials and stakeholders during the campaign, Regional Manager, Richard Walker said that he will appreciate it if community representatives can mobilise themselves in ensuring that level crossings are eliminated in the near future, even if it is one per year. He added that regular discussions between the City of Cape Town and Prasa/Metrorail are at an advanced stage to change the road layout from the T-junction adjacent to the level crossing to a two-way road. He indicated that this process will ease the flow of traffic from both directions in Buttskop and will minimise the risks associated with the level crossing. Walker said: “We will separate the traffic with a barrier wall for a 1-kilometre distance, away from the level crossing”.

Our head-count covered over one-thousand (1 000+) level crossing users that passed through the crossing today. These included pedestrians, bakkies/vans, motorcycles, buses, trucks, mini busses and bicycles.

Some of the objectives for conducting rail safety awareness campaigns are:

- raise awareness about rail and road safety at level crossings,
- strengthen positive relationships with our stakeholders and communities and
- open a dialogue or platform to exchange ideas on rail and road safety with all the parties concerned

It was noted with pleasure that today’s behaviour of level crossing users (motorists and kombis in particular) was commendable and there was greater co-operation with the campaigns team.

Since Metrorail intensified its weekly safety campaigns, near misses at the Buttskop level crossing are recorded to have declined as follows:



- ✚ 2015 – 45
- ✚ 2016 – 36
- ✚ 2017 – 24
- ✚ 2018 – 22

After the campaign, a debriefing was conducted to indicate the successes and areas of improvement for future ILCADs.

For information on past ILCAD worldwide campaigns and the events hosted each year by a different ILCAD partner you can visit their site www.ilcad.org.

Below, are a few photographs taken of at the campaign::

 <p>A pre-briefing session was held in preparation for ILCAD with a vast number of stakeholders in attendance</p>	 <p>Members of the community and the Greater Blue Downs Ministers Fraternal heeded the call to support Metrorail's safety campaigns—indeed the group of more than five Pastors assisted in making sure that all motorists and fellow residents got all the information prepared for them</p>
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Law Enforcement and Traffic Officials interacted with level crossing users, advising them on safety on the road and rail



Metrorail Regional Manager, Richard Walker, led from the front as he was having one on one interactions at the crossing in an effort to promote rail safety



Community members got an opportunity to raise their concerns to the Regional Manager about their experience and suggestions thereof



A number of unlicensed cars and drivers were also attended to by the traffic officials and fined accordingly



The day's proceedings were signed off with a prayer by the Pastors from The Greater Blue Downs Ministers Fraternal



Making our level crossings safer by working together



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