

WHEN IS ENOUGH, ENOUGH?

Rustenburg – The R510 crossing nearly claimed the life of another child on Friday 24 January, raising the accident count to seven learners in less than two years.

This road has proven time and again to be a safety hazard for learners crossing the R510 as some drivers just blatantly speed by. *Platinum Weekly* reported on Friday 14 September 2018 about two learners who got injured and again on 6 September 2019 about four more learners who nearly lost their lives on this road.

Reatlegile Koonyaditse, a Grade 7 learner at Sunrise View Primary School, was struck by an oncoming vehicle as she was crossing the road to get to school. She sustained various injuries and is currently at home recovering.

Koonyaditse and her brother must cross this road every day because their grandparents cannot afford to pay taxi fees.

A concerned resident, ward 18 councillor Martha Lerm, said: "The young girl has a few serious injuries but was sent home. I am in the process of arranging an appointment with another doctor to get antibiotics and antiseptic medication for her wounds." Lerm has been working tirelessly for the past two years to make the crossing safer. Little by little improvements were made. In September 2019, a meeting was arranged with all stakeholders; it was decided that traffic officers will be assisting in the mornings and afternoons to get the learners safe across the road. This lasted for about three days.

In an interview with *Platinum Weekly*, a Hoërskool Grenswag representative who wants to stay anonymous said: "We remind our learners weekly about road safety and use the pedestrian crossing, but it doesn't help if motorists blatantly ignore the rules of the road. The safety of our learners is a big concern for us. If the Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) doesn't take action all our efforts are for nothing."

After the accident, various members of the public have written letters to the RLM municipal manager (MM) to once again request constant visibility of traffic officers before and after school.

"We need constant monitoring and traffic officers on this part of the R510 as it has been proven time and again that

some motorists travelling there has no consideration for human life. The youth are in danger daily and it is only a matter of time before there is a fatality," Lerm said.



Pedestrians must duel with death when crossing the R510.

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