

Gov't looking at ban on using mobile phone while driving

By Anita Roberts

A POLICY PAPER TO PROHIBIT all drivers from using mobile phones while driving will go before the Council of Ministers (COM) this month.

Anyone found using mobile phone; texting or talking, while driving will be penalized with a fine of Vt50,000 in the hope it will deter drivers from causing accidents and it will make the road safer.

The Minister of Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Jotham Napat, has announced this in his comments on social media following an accident that occurred last Saturday involving a vehicle that was badly damaged after rolling over on the road at Traverso in Port Vila.

Minister Napat said he is already looking at introducing

breathalyzer into the road traffic act.

Breathalyzer is a device used for testing a person's alcohol level or measuring the amount of alcohol in a driver's breath.

Despite continuous campaigns to highlight the dangers of drink driving, the number of road accidents in Port Vila, including Luganville, continues to rise.

Strengthening road worthy inspection is expected next year, said the minister.

Minister Napat said public vehicles that are in poor conditions but keep running on the streets should be banned.

"There are loop holes in the system which I am already looking at," he added.

Last Saturday's accident has raised concerns that drivers fail to take the golden rules of driving seriously.



The minister made the announcement on social media following an accident that occurred during the weekend involving a vehicle that was badly damaged after rolling over on the road near Traverso in Port Vila. Photo: Leong Moli/Facebook

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Photo: Airport M...

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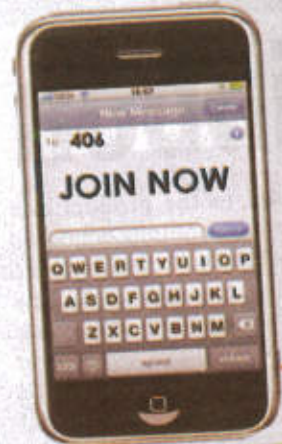


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