

**Making your holiday trip safer by carrying out preventative maintenance on your vehicle.** Johan van Vreden, Motor Industry Ombudsman of South Africa (MIOSA)

The holidays are upon us, and we are all looking forward to this period of rest and recharge for the new year ahead. For those of us who are lucky enough to be going away during these difficult economic times must please take heed of the following advice:

1. If your mode of transport is your family vehicle, make sure that the vehicle is in good shape to take on the long trip ahead.
2. Every year many vehicle maintenance service providers offer pre-holiday checks, and we suggest that these offers be taken up, especially if you are not technically minded.
3. Just like people, motor vehicles need regular attention to keep them in good shape and usable.
4. Make sure that you have your vehicle checked and serviced before attempting a long journey. Special attention should be given to safety critical items such as brakes, tyres, lights and of course the engine, gearbox, battery, and cooling system. And as this time of year is normally warmer it is also prudent to have your air conditioning system checked.
5. If you are not sure, do not hesitate to contact your vehicle service provider for advice.
6. Make your booking with your service provider in advance so that you do not have to waste time waiting for a possible opening. Most service providers are very busy during the preholiday season, and you should make a point of choosing a time that will make your check timely.

So, with the above in mind, I wish everybody a wonderful festive season and safe journeys.

**END**