

TRUCKING WELLNESS ON THE ROAD



▲ The Trucking Wellness clinic at the Highway Junction truck stop provides an essential service to the truck drivers who visit it. It's a hive of activity at night.

table was tight - leaving Pretoria at 2.00pm and arriving in Durban after midnight. We were travelling in two of those fancy Mercedes-Benz V250d vans. My input was therefore limited to a visit to the Heidelberg Traffic Control Centre to show how it all works; and a meeting with Ben Deysel from Highway Junction to give some back-ground to the functioning's of a top truck stop.

First stop was the Heidelberg Traffic Control Centre and a big thanks must go to Phambili Gama of Zimele Investment Enterprise Company (Pty) Ltd for obtaining permission from SANRAL for us to visit the site. Jacques Hoyer, manager of the control centre, and his colleagues gave a tour of the facility and explained it all. Many thanks for that.

From there it was onto a quick visit to the Trucking Wellness clinic at the Villiers Truck Stop and then onto the Zimele Truck Stop in Warden where the management team met the sister on duty as well as a number of other staff members from Trucking Wellness.

By that time it was dark and it was onto the Highway Junction truck Stop in Harrismith.

Highway Junction proved to be an eye-opener for the management team, both in terms of the fantastic clinic Trucking Wellness operates on this site, as well as in terms of the facility itself and the number of trucks using it. It's all the right stuff. From there it was onto Durban to experience travelling the N3 at night sharing it with the hundreds of trucks that ply this route north and south.

It was a quick trip but one which served its purpose in giving valuable insight into the essential workings and services provided by Trucking Wellness. It also gave a surface idea of some of the realities on this road where the trucks sold by Mercedes-Benz and FUSO operate. FleetWatch lifts its hat to Hafkamp, Gerber and Gaba for giving up their time to get out on the road. There are not many top executives who do that.

And what did they think of it all? Please listen to their views in the video accompanying this article. It proved enlightening. □



Daimler Execs impressed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQTD0vMFbaw>



▲ Trucking Wellness not only has on-site clinics at 21 trucks stops around the country but also provides mobile services to trucking companies through its fleet of Sprinter vans donated by Mercedes-Benz.



▲ Explaining to Daimler Truck & Bus top management the workings of the Heidelberg Traffic Control Centre. Apart from weighing trucks for overloads, it also has a test facility. Jacques Hoyer, manager of the centre, said 68% of trucks tested failed. This co-incides with the FleetWatch Brake & Tyre Watch statistics.