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[Baboons Stone Highway Motorists.](#) (8 January, 1997)

A troop of baboons has been terrorising motorists on the N1 – and traffic officials believe the constant din of holiday traffic to and from Cape Town may be to blame. According to a provincial traffic officer, the N1 appears to be just a stone's throw away from a surly troop of baboons who stoned motorists three times over the festive season. There had been a lull since the last attack at De Doorns on December 18 until the troop struck again yesterday.

Principal traffic officer Kenny Africa said motorists were pelted with stones from the mountain slopes above the Protea Park Hotel, about 5 km from the Huguenot Tunnel. There have been no reports of damage to cars or of injuries to motorists. Mr Africa said only the actions of Inspector Danny Appolis of the provincial traffic authority prevented the stone-throwing from becoming a long drawn-out affair when he drove the troop off. 'At first the baboons were playing and throwing stones at each other. Then they started throwing stones on the road. Inspector Danny Appolis arrived on the scene and threw several stones, forcing them to back off,' Mr Africa said.

He said incidents were also reported from Du Toit's Kloof Pass and De Doorns. 'At first we thought they were throwing stones because the Transvalers were coming to Cape Town. Now it's started again and we think it's because they are chasing them back home.' Mr Africa warned that visitors should watch out for tortoises which have been crossing the busy route in increasing numbers. *Own correspondent. Courtesy of the Pretoria News.*

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