

Press Release

18th October 2019

Demand for Government to focus action as serious injuries and fatalities surge

Friday, 18th October 2019: Lusaka. Reports of the increasing number of people killed or seriously injured on Zambia's roads is "disgraceful" and Zambia Road Safety Trust (ZRST) demands urgent focus of action by the Minister.

While we welcome the Government's recent appointment of a board at the Road Transport and Safety Agency, there is an urgent need for a significant shift in policy that will result in far fewer losses of lives on our roads.

We demand a Road safety statement that will be addressing road safety issues throughout the lifetime of roads users. There is no room for complacency on part of the Minister.

Overall more than 100 people are killed every month, many more are left seriously injured, and each incident is a tragedy for the individuals and the families involved.

Over 60 per cent of all road deaths are pedestrians, motorcyclist and cyclists, including children and women. We urge government to show us how they will address these fatalities.

Of particular concern are the rises in fatalities among passengers on public transport such as minibuses and a spike in fatalities on motorways – some worrying trends are emerging here that require immediate investigation.

Daniel Mwamba, chairman for ZRST said:

“It is really time the government renews its commitment to this issue which is affecting all communities in society, young and old, and make sure we don't continue to kill and injure people in ways that could so easily be prevented.

“It is disappointing to see there has been little to no improvement in the number of fatalities on our roads. In light of this, we continue to urge the Government to implement road safety targets to help prevent tragedies in the coming years.”

ZRST want to see that Government leads the way in improving road safety but this is a major national issue which also demands close coordination and team-work across government agencies, local government, ministry of Health, police, fire Bridget and a host of other public and private bodies, as well as NGOs, the public as road users. Government cannot act effectively if it works in isolation.

The behaviour of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians is a key factor in the cause of these casualties/End.

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NOTE

Who We Are

The Zambia Road Safety Trust is the nation’s leading Road Safety Charity No: 101/0503/15 registered under the Zambian Government NGO Act of 2009 and a member of the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety.

- We provide road safety education in primary school, and secondary schools
- We design and implement road safety improvements using iRAP star ratings methodologies
- We develop cost effective road safety programs to increase knowledge, awareness and skills amongst the Zambian road users.
- We promote a positive attitude towards enforcement laws and infuse sense of courtesy and concern among road users.
- We reach out to the media, corporates and the community to solicit their support to prevent colossal waste of human life on Zambian roads
- Advocate to government to create political will and help improve the road safety situation in the country
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Vision

The vision of the Trust is to match and exceed international Road Safety excellence consistent with the Safe System approach to free Zambia’s roads from death and serious injury.

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