

## **\*Press Release\***

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

# **Zambia records an alarming 11% rise in Road Deaths during a lock down COVID-19 pandemic**

**Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020: Lusaka.** More people have died this year between July and September compared to the same period in 2019.

In a statement, police officials have told the Zambia Road Safety Trust (ZRST) that 483 people were recorded killed in road accidents in the third quarter of 2020 compared to the 434 road fatalities during the similar period last year.

Meaning a worrying 161 people's lives were lost every month on Zambia's roads during a lock down COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite a precipitous drop in traffic during the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people killed in car collisions this year in Zambia is now more than it was at this point in 2019, an alarming 11% rise in fatalities.

The chairman for ZRST Daniel Mwamba said:

“We would like to express our deepest concerns on these figures, this increase in traffic fatality rates is tragic and unacceptable and needs fast action”.

ZRST urges the Ministry of Transport & Communications, Road Transport & Safety Agency (RTSA) and the Zambia Police to use the collective government response to COVID-19 as a model to address the tragic issue of road accident pandemic in the country.

The lessons from the unified, national response to COVID-19 provide real hope for developing a new national road safety strategy which is urgently needed to save lives.

“Henceforth, in the wake of the pandemic, the Ministry of Transport & Communications should take the lessons from government responses to COVID-19 and apply them today to reducing Zambia's unacceptable road toll”. //End

## 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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