

WEDNESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER, 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTELLIGENT ROAD SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
PROJECT**

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION, MR MUSHIMBA

Mr Speaker, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for according me this opportunity to deliver this Ministerial Statement on the implementation of the intelligent Road Safety Management System Project which has seen the installation of speed cameras on selected roads in Lusaka meant to enhance road safety.

Mr Speaker, as you are aware Road Traffic and Safety Agency (RTSA) and its technology partner launched this project earlier in the year in a proposed phased approach. The initial or pilot phase commenced in Lusaka on 11th July, 2018 with the installation of eleven speed cameras on seven of thirty-one road traffic accident prone areas in Lusaka. These seven sites are: Airport Road; Great East Road; Ring Road (Tokyo Way); Kafue Road; Mumbwa Road; Church Road and the Great North Road.

Mr Speaker I have to hasten to say that the roll out and implementation of this project has not been without challenges. The public has raised several concerns and rightly so during the pilot phase. Some of the concerns have included among others; inadequate publicising and sensitisation of citizens on the project and catching them unaware, lack of adequate signage on some of the roads, speed limits that seemed to be inconsistent and sometimes too low in certain sections, delayed offence notification, other challenges observed where around making of payments for the fines as payment platforms were not yet ready, notification of offence messages sent to wrong people owing to change of ownership of a motor vehicle without notification to the agency, and lack of captured images as the offence is committed as well as failing to log on the websites to review the statement to ascertain where the offence was committed, the date and the time.

WEDNESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER, 2018

Mr Speaker, the Government is fully cognisant of these concerns from the general public on the failures in the initial roll out and implementation of this project. Allow me to share some of the mitigation measures the Government has put in place to ensure the eventual successful implementation of the subsequent phases of the project as we continue implementing other phases.

- (a) the road signs have been mounted on roads with speed cameras and as we launch the subsequent phases we will make sure that signages and speed camera signs go up before we commission those new sites;
- (b) the turnaround time for offence notification has been reduced to about four days;
- (c) sensitisation has continued and will continue to be done. Currently through the print media such as the Daily Mail, we have sensitisation notices running at the moment;
- (d) an additional site has been activated where offence details can be checked. Every vehicle owner is able to log on to the system to check if they have any speeding fines. This can be done by logging on using the vehicle owner id and vehicle registration number;
- (e) the Government has taken note of the speed limiting inconsistencies that motorists have raised and is considering revision of the speed limits in places where revisions are deemed to be necessary. This review and the streamlining of the speed limits will conclude by the end of the year; and
- (f) the Government has signed various memoranda of understanding with sixteen commercial banks for depositing the speed fines. Further, there is an option for online payment using the website www.paymyfines.co.zm. The fee payable for over speeding is K300.

WEDNESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER, 2018

Mr Speaker, let me emphasise that this project is might to address one of the key contributory factors in accidents and fatalities on our roads which is over speeding. The project is supposed to ensure the safe movement of all motor vehicles at a speed that one has maximum chances of survival and minimal damage to their vehicles if accidents do occur.

Mr Speaker, as at 18th September, 2018, a total of 166,418 offenders were captured by the speed cameras for exceeding the recommended speed limits in respective road sections. We have seen a drop in the number of offenders, month on month, since the project started and this is a trend we want and expected. A corresponding decrease in accidents and severity of accidents is also expected. The project objectives are, indeed, being realised. Let me also inform the nation that the rollout of speed cameras to the rest of the other identified roads is planned for as well as the extension of this project to other towns such as Livingstone, Ndola and Kitwe in the near future.

Sir, allow me to also update the nation on another key aspect of this project which is re-registration of motor vehicles. The re-registration exercise has tentatively been set to commence in the first quarter of 2019. This, however, is dependent on a number of factors being resolved by the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) which include the need to conduct a regulatory impact assessment since the payment of the re-registration and motor vehicle re-examination fees will be mandatory and may increase the cost of doing business. Before the re-registration process commences, adequate sensitisation campaigns will be conducted countrywide explaining the reasons for the re-registration and the benefits to the owners of these vehicles.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude, I wish to state that, as a country, our goal which is in line with the United Nation (UN) Decade of Action is to reduce road accidents and fatalities. We will continue rolling out initiatives that speak to the need to lower and eliminate accidents on our roads. I also call upon our road engineers in Zambia to plan and design roads that will accommodate all road users safely by designing roads that have all prerequisite furniture for safe use.

Mr Speaker, I thank you.