

MR. SPEAKER,

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER A MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON ACCIDENTS AND LOSS OF LIVES AND PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF ROAD CARNAGE.

MR. SPEAKER,

I AM GREATLY SADDENED BY THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ROAD ACCIDENTS IN THE RECENT PAST.

THE INCREASE IN THE LOSS OF LIVES THROUGH ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED.

SIR, THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, WORKS, SUPPLY AND COMMUNICATIONS AND ITS AGENCIES,

(i) ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

(ii) ROAD TRANSPORT AND SAFETY AGENCY

WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL ROAD FUND AGENCY(NRFA) - LOCAL AUTHORITIES, BUS DRIVERS, ASSOCIATIONS, TRUCKERS ASSOCIATIONS AND THE ZAMBIA POLICE(ZP) FORCE ETC. TO TRY AND FIND SOLUTIONS THAT WILL REDUCE THE ACCIDENTS AND LOSS OF LIVES ON THE ROADS.

MR. SPEAKER,

GOVERNMENT POLICY ON ROAD SAFETY IS TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF ROAD USERS AND THEIR PROPERTY THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF

APPROPRIATE, EFFECTIVE FORCEABLE ROAD SAFETY MEASURES AND REGULATIONS.

IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS, GOVERNMENT HAS USED THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIES;

- (a.) INSTITUTING OF SAFETY ENGINEERING WITHIN THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES IN ROAD SECTOR. (ON NEW ROADS, INSPECTIONS BY ROAD SAFETY ENGINEERS AUDITING OF WORKS.)
- (b.) IMPROVING THE REPORTING AND ANALYSIS OF ROAD ACCIDENT DATA. (ZAMBIA POLICE-COLLECTS DATA, RTSA ANALYSES, OPTUM DATABASE- ACCIDENT INFORMATION ONLINE)
- (c.) ENSURE STRICT ENFORCEMENT, IMPROVED COORDINATION BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN ROAD SAFETY ACTIVITIES AT ALL LEVELS TO ENHANCE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ENFORCEMENT OF TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND LAWS.
- (d.) INTRODUCTION OF APPROPRIATE FINANCING ARRANGEMENT TO FINANCE ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMMES.
- (e.) GOVERNMENT DIRECTED THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, WORKS, SUPPLY AND COMMUNICATIONS AND HOME AFFAIRS TO:-
 - (1.) COME UP WITH A COMPREHENSIVE AND WORKABLE STRATEGY BY WHICH ROAD CARNAGE COULD BE REDUCED.
 - (2.) LIMIT TIME FOR OPERATIONS FOR LONG DISTANCE PUBLIC PASSENGER TRANSPORT.

FOLLOWING THIS DIRECTIVE SIR, A NUMBER OF CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO DEVISE SOME SUSTAINABLE, WORKABLE INTERVENTIONS.

TWO KEY AREAS OF CONCERN WERE IDENTIFIED DURING THE CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS. THESE RELATE TO THE FOLLOWING:-

- (1.) FLEET MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING
- (2.) CREW DEPLOYMENT AND DRIVER FATIGUE MANAGEMENT.

SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS THE HIGH ROAD CARNAGE IN OUR COUNTRY FORM THE MEETINGS INCLUDED:-

- (1.) USE OF GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS ON PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES, IT WAS CLEAR THAT SPEED LIMITATIONS ON PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES WERE NOT WORKING.
- (2.) REGULATE OR LIMIT THE TIME WHICH DRIVERS OF CERTAIN PSV MAY REMAIN CONTINUOUSLY ON DUTY.

ON 19TH APRIL 2012, A JOINT ROAD TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMME (JRTEP) WAS LAUNCHED BY THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, WORKS, SUPPLY AND COMMUNICATIONS, IN COLLABORATION WITH ITS KEY PARTNERS AND AGENCIES (I.E RDA, RTSA, NRFA AND ZP).

THIS PROGRAMME HAS BEEN TAILORED TO ENHANCE VISITING OF TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ON ALL KEY ROAD SECTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

THIS IS TO ENCOURAGE COMPLIANCE TO ROAD SAFETY JRTEP THROUGH HIGHWAY AND LOCAL TRAFFIC PATROLS WILL FOCUS ON:-

- (a.) REMOVING THOSE DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL GREATER THAN 0.38 MILLIGRAMS/LITRE OF BREATHE.
- (b.) REMOVE HIGH RISK OF MOTOR VEHICLES BY ENCOURAGING SMART BEHAVIOR.
- (c.) REPORT BENEFITS BEING ACHIEVED QUARTERLY TO GENERAL PUBLIC.
- (d.) INCREASED VISIBILITY OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICES ON PUBLIC ROADS- SHORT TERM.
- (e.) ENSURING THAT ONLY REGISTERED VEHICLES ARE ON OUR ROADS.
- (f.) FINALLY DIGITALIZATION OF THE SYSTEM WILL BE THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION.

MR. SPEAKER,

GOVERNMENT IS ALSO AWARE THAT TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR A GOOD ROAD NETWORK, INFRASTRUCTURE NEED TO BE IMPROVED IF WE ARE TO REDUCE A NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY ROAD DEFECTS.

SOME OF THE MEASURES BEING PUT IN PLACES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:-

- (1.) REVIEW DESIGN OF ROADS TO INCLUDE MORE FACILITIES FOR DETERS.
- (2.) IMPROVED SIGNAGE ON ROADS/MARKINGS
- (3.) EMERGENCY REPAIRS OF POTHOLES AND OTHER DANGEROUS OCCURRENCES.

(4.) ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORKS.

(5.) UPGRADING OF ROAD JUNCTIONS/WIDENING OF LANES.

(6.) PROCURE BREAKDOWN FACILITIES (REMOVING OBSTACLES ON THE ROADS AS IN THE LONG - RUN.

MR. SPEAKER,

I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE THE MEMBERS OF THIS AUGUST HOUSE AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT GOVERNMENT IS WORKING AT REDUCING THE LOSS OF LIVES THROUGH ROAD ACCIDENTS.