



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF WORKS AND
TRANSPORT, HONOURABLE ALPHEUS INARUSEB, AT THE
LAUNCH OF THE 2015 FESTIVE SEASON ROAD SAFETY
CAMPAIGN, OTJIWARONGO, 02 DECEMBER 2015

**Honourable Governor of the Otjozondjupa Region, Honourable Otto
Ipinge**

Deputy Inspector General Namibia Police, Gen. James Tjivikua

Chairman and Board Members of the National Road Safety Council

Members of the MVA Fund Board

Representatives of all State-owned Enterprises

Representatives of various road transport associations

Industry stakeholders and partner

Senior Government Officials

Distinguished invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

Allow me at this juncture to thank all the stakeholders who are continuing to collaborate with the National Road Safety Council, the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, the Roads Authority, Namibian Police Force and all other Public and Private Sector partners in advancing the cause for safer roads and safer road users during our festive periods and beyond.

I personally commend the input, expert advice and resources that went into planning of the operations of the festive season. I would further recommend that you strategically pull together in one direction to achieve the desired results. I would also like to commend the Private Sector for continuously supporting road safety campaigns during festive seasons. I have learnt that some State-owned Enterprises are also supporting the festive season financially and in-kind.

We are approaching yet another Festive Season Road Safety Campaign Launch, which signals the beginning of hard work for all agencies dealing with safety issues on our roads for up to two months non-stop. Road safety is an issue that cuts across all sectors and requires such passion and dedication to deliver desired results and impact. The economic cost of dealing with the

consequences of road trauma already runs into hundreds of millions of Namibian dollars each year and the social cost is equally high. It is estimated that the cost of both fatalities and serious injuries equates to approximately 3% of the GDP per annum. This road safety campaign and future road safety planning processes must provide clear and concrete actions on accident prevention. My request to you, as implementing agencies, is simple. If the importance of acting and the interventions to reduce road trauma are understood, then find the critical gaps to action that can achieve and accelerate progress on accident prevention.

Members of the National Road Safety Council present here today may recall that at their inauguration, I brought to their attention a number of issues. I am pleased to have another opportunity to express once again, my expectations as your appointing authority.

Your mandate as expressed by your enabling legislation is simply to promote road safety in the Republic of Namibia. This may sound simple and straight forward, but the rollout of effective road safety programmes and projects is not that simple. This is mainly due to the multifaceted nature of Road Safety.

The key stakeholders, role players and private sector sponsors as well as civil society must play strong supporting roles in promoting road safety in NAMIBIA. Such contributory support functions such as Engineering from the Roads Authority much result in meaningful engineering solutions which built safety into Road Network Planning. I can remember officiating at an occasion this year, marking the inauguration of an Arrestor Bed in Usakos. This Arrestor Bed is an area of special material designed to stop a runaway vehicles, especially trucks whose

brakes fail when going downhill. We need to see these type of measures replicated across Namibia.

There a number of role players that in one way or the other are expected to contribute to the improvement of road safety in Namibia, and I urgently call upon them to join the National Road Safety Council and give them that support full-heartedly.

In terms of Law Enforcement and Emergency Response teams, visibility is absolutely crucial and key for drastic reduction of road crash accidents and fatalities. Road users have a tendency to misbehave when there is no visibility of Traffic Officers on the main roads and in town centres. On the other hand, when road crashes eventually take place, emergency response teams need to respond immediately and within the shortest possible time in order to save lives.

My Ministry is fully supporting the National Road Safety Council in implementing integrated road safety initiatives with key stakeholders in order to remedy the situation on our roads. This support is unwavering given the magnitude of the problem. Let us hold hands in all seriousness and tackle this issue from all corners.

May God Bless our beloved nation and richly bless all of us.

I now have the singular honour to declare the 2015 Festive Season Road Safety Campaign officially launched.

I thank you all!