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A Promising Vision for Safety: RTSA's Fleet Safety Initiative Leads the Journey

The Zambia Road Safety Trust (ZRST), the nation's leading NGO for Road Safety and Sustainable mobility, extends its unwavering support to the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) for its recent initiative promoting Fleet Safety Management (FSM) among public service vehicle (PSV) operators and the broader public. This proactive step not only addresses a critical need but also embodies RTSA's dedication to fostering a safer transportation culture in Zambia.

According to the 2021 ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS ANNUAL STATISTICS report released by the Zambia Police Service, the occurrence of road accidents in Zambia resulted in a distressing loss of 2,100 lives. Notably, pedestrians and cyclists accounted for more than 60% of the total fatalities. The data reveals a considerable involvement of Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) in these accidents, underscoring the pressing necessity for enhanced safety provisions within this domain.

The initiative implemented by the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA), namely the Fleet Safety Management (FSM) programme, addresses the aforementioned challenge directly. Through promoting knowledge and understanding of responsible fleet management practices, providing comprehensive driver training, and emphasizing vehicle maintenance, the FSM programme empowers public service vehicle (PSV) operators to give paramount importance to safety on our roadways. It is crucial to note that this initiative aims to go beyond mere compliance with regulations and instead strives to instill a safety-oriented mindset throughout all facets of PSV operations.

But raising awareness is only the first step. The true impact lies in proactive implementation. We commend RTSA for taking this crucial step by rolling out FSM across the nation's road network. This ensures concrete improvements in safety standards and practices, ultimately saving lives.

The ZRST acknowledges the substantial significance of this undertaking in its capacity as a proponent of road safety. It exemplifies a harmonious congruence with our collective aspiration to establish a safeguarded milieu devoid of accidents for all individuals utilizing the roadways in Zambia. Nevertheless, our expedition towards the attainment of this objective remains incomplete.

While acknowledging the commendable progress made by the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) in its efforts, we call for continued action on several fronts. It is essential to

actively involve both major and minor Public Service Vehicle (PSV) operators in the implementation of the Fleet Safety Management (FSM) programme, in order to broaden its impact. Additionally, the establishment of robust enforcement mechanisms is of utmost importance to ensure strict adherence to the predetermined safety guidelines.

By integrating public awareness campaigns with the FSM programme, an opportunity arises to foster a more comprehensive safety culture among all road users. Through the collaborative efforts of the RTSA, the Zambia Road Safety Trust (ZRST), and the general public of Zambia, the current achievements of the FSM initiative can be leveraged to shape a future in which every journey on Zambian roads is guaranteed to be safe.

It is imperative to acknowledge that the issue at hand transcends mere statistical analysis; rather, it encompasses the lives of individuals. Specifically, it concerns the well-being of families who rightly aspire to witness the safe return of their cherished relatives. Hence, it is incumbent upon each and every one of us to contribute to the collective effort aimed at enhancing road safety for the betterment of present and forthcoming cohorts.

Through collaborative effort, we possess the capacity to forge a Zambia wherein every journey transpires with utmost safety and security, free from any perilous encounters.

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