ZAMBIA ROAD SAFETY TRUST

MOBILITY SOLUTIONS
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT
ROAD SAFETY

Date: 23 October 2026
Ref: ZRST/STATEHOUSE/10/26

His Excellency Mr Hakainde Hichilema
President of the Republic of Zambia
State House
Lusaka

Your Excellency,

Request for presidential action on road safety and the Grow Zambia Agenda

I write for the Zambia Road Safety Trust (ZRST) and on behalf of road safety advocates to request your direction for a coordinated response to rising road deaths. We ask you to designate a senior coordinating official, working through Cabinet Office and the responsible Permanent Secretaries, to secure a costed 90-day response with named institutional leads and public progress reporting.

ZRST is a Zambian non-governmental organisation registered under the NGO Act of 2009. Our work covers child road safety, safer school routes, pedestrian and cyclist safety, speed management, research and driver training. We work with communities, public institutions, businesses and technical partners to prevent deaths and serious injuries.

Our analysis published on 22 October puts reported deaths between January and September 2026 at 2,286, compared with 1,893 in the same period of 2025, an increase of approximately 21%. On current trends, ZRST projects 3,000 to 3,300 road deaths by 31 December 2026. This is a conditional forecast, not a confirmed annual toll: a further 715 deaths in the final quarter would take the total above 3,000. Urgent action can still change that outcome.

Road crashes also impose a substantial economic burden. UNDP's 2023 Road Safety Investment Case estimated annual losses of K16.7 billion, equivalent to 4.7% of GDP at the study's valuation. This is a historical estimate, not a fresh measurement of 2026 losses. Death, disability, medical care and lost productive time place costs on households, employers and public services.

Your address to Parliament on 9 October set out the Grow Zambia Agenda's ambition to more than double the economy and create jobs and business opportunities. Cabinet Office has also emphasised the role of local suppliers in production, regional trade and exports. In our assessment, preventable crashes work against these aims: they remove workers and household earners, interrupt deliveries and divert resources towards treatment, repairs and replacement. Safer passenger and freight journeys, including on the Lusaka–Ndola and Lobito corridors, should therefore be part of delivering the Agenda.

Parliament's record of 23 April describes an existing inter-agency road safety committee involving RTSA, RDA, Zambia Police and local authorities. We propose using this mechanism, under your designated official, to deliver four priorities. The periods below are proposed from receipt of this letter.

1. Agree a costed response within 30 days

Direct the responsible institutions to hold a decision meeting and publish a 90-day action schedule with institutional leads, milestones, available funds and financing gaps. Distinguish funded work from proposals

requiring further approval or procurement, and publish quarterly progress against deaths and serious injuries.

2. Target enforcement at the risks causing serious harm

Ask Zambia Police and RTSA, through their respective oversight arrangements, to agree a plan within 30 days for priority locations and times, including the festive season. Track speed compliance, alcohol testing coverage and results, restraint use and serious casualties. Report deployment context and operational speed-camera coverage; offence totals and fine revenue alone cannot demonstrate safer roads.

3. Protect school routes and high risk road sections

Ask the relevant road authorities and councils to identify priority sites within 30 days using casualty records, school-route exposure and site assessments. Publish designs, costs, funding and maintenance responsibilities within 60 days. Begin approved, funded crossings, footpaths and appropriate 30 km/h school-zone measures within 90 days, with completion dates for larger works.

4. Strengthen commercial transport and emergency response

Ask RTSA, Zambia Police and the Ministry of Health to agree targeted actions within 60 days on vehicle condition, fatigue risks, operator compliance and emergency referral gaps on selected routes. Publish inspection coverage, corrective actions and an initial assessment of response times. Identify proposed new legal requirements separately for consultation.

ZRST can submit community and school-route evidence. Any commissioned services would require a separate agreement and applicable approval and procurement processes.

I respectfully request a written response from your Office, identifying the coordinating official and a proposed meeting date. We would welcome the opportunity to present our evidence and discuss these requests.

Yours respectfully,



Daniel Mwamba
CEO/Executive Director
Zambia Road Safety Trust

Copy: Secretary to the Cabinet; Permanent Secretaries Ministry of Transport & Logistics, Home Affairs, Infrastructure, Local Government, Health and Finance; Director and Chief Executive Officer, RTSA; Inspector General of Police; Director and Chief Executive Officer, RDA.