



**JOINT STATEMENT BY NRSC, MVA FUND, NAMPOL, MINISTRIES OF
WORKS & TRANSPORT AND NAMIBIA DEFENSE FORCE, ROADS
AUTHORITY AND CITY OF WINDHOEK**

**LAUNCH OF INDEPENDENCE AND EASTER ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN
2015**

**“LIVE TO CELEBRATE”
17 MARCH 2015**

- Deputy Commissioner Ralph Ludwig - Nampol
- Mrs. Rosalia Martins-Hausiku, Chief Executive Officer – MVA FUND
- Mr Conrad Lutombi, Chief Executive Officer – Roads Authority
- Representatives from:
 - City Police
 - Ministry of Defence
 - Ministry of Works and Transport
 - Private Sector Road Safety Forum
- Members of the Media

Allow me to thank all stakeholders who continue to collaborate with us the principal road safety partners (namely the National Road Safety Council, the

Roads Authority, Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, Namibian Police Force, City Police, Ministries of Works and Transport; Defense, Health and Social Services) as well as all other Public and Private Sector role players in advancing the cause for safer roads and safe road usage.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we all know, Namibia has reached an important milestone in its history. As we prepare for the country's 25th independence anniversary celebrations, many patriotic Namibians will be traveling long distances to join those convening in the capital for this historic event of not only the swearing in of the country's third Head of State, but also of the Silver Jubilee independence celebrations. These festivities will be followed by the Easter long-weekend, when traffic volumes on our national roads are expected to drastically increase, thus putting strain on the national road network in terms of congestion and inadvertently increased risk of road crashes and related human trauma.

This anticipated increase in traffic volumes has prompted various partners in the road safety fraternity to launch an Independence and Easter Road Safety Campaign under the theme "**Live to Celebrate**". This initiative will run from the 19th of March until the 21 of April 2015.

The campaign will be characterized by rest-points and mobile or 24hr magistrate's courts. The campaign will focus on:

- speed,
- passenger overload,

- execution of warrant of arrest,
- alcohol testing through the use of “Booze buses”,
- mobile magistrate courts at designated roadblocks,
- high law enforcement visibility,
- Mobilisation of emergency medical services at designate roadblocks,
- Drivers will be urged to keep their lights on (day and night),

The ultimate goal is the reduction of the number of crashes and associated loss of life on our roads.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Media,

It is very important to note that road crashes are increasing on a daily basis and concerted effort is needed to bring them down. From 01 January until 15 March 2015, about 778 crashes were reported. About 1268 persons sustained varying degrees of injuries while 141 lives were lost as a result of these crashes. Compared to the same period last year, 800 crashes were reported, out of which 1378 persons sustained injuries and 123 people lost their lives. This shows a 3% and 8% decrease in the number of road crashes and the number of injuries respectively, whilst fatalities increased by 13% over the same period. This is an alarming increase compared to the small population of our country.

Just recently at the end of February this year, the Truck Safety Campaign which was rolled-out in Khomas, Erongo and Otjozondjupa regions, concluded. The campaign focussed on truck driver fitness; traffic control and calming. A total of 320 truck drivers were engaged (i.e. 110 in Khomas,

168 in Otjozondjupa and 42 in Erongo). All drivers were male and their ages ranged between 20 and 39, the same age group which continues to be the most at risk.

The most pertinent issues which emerged from this campaign are:

- long-distance driving without adequate rest which results in driver fatigue,
- non-visibility of other vehicles – such vehicles are recommended to switch on their lights during the day to increase visibility,
- Some vehicles neglect to dim their lights when passing other vehicles at night

Additionally, mini-bus drivers were found to be following other vehicles at unsafe distances, not dimming their lights, speeding and wrongful overtaking. Therefore, while collaboration between various road safety partners is remarkable and commendable, each and every road user is expected to play their part in ensuring safety on the road.

We will continue to engage on pertinent road safety issues throughout the year, but just to highlight some of the campaigns that we will be running in 2015, the following is notable:

- Our first campaign period starts on the eve of our Silver Jubilee celebrations of our 25th Independence;
- We will have a launch for our Easter Campaign on 24 March 2015 where we will highlight the dangers of drag racing on our national road

networks, which is a contributor to speeding and subsequently to high impact road crashes;

- A generic campaign would continue until May holiday;
- The United Nations Global Road Safety Week will be commemorated from 4-10 May 2015 with the emphasis on children and road safety. The campaign seeks to highlight the plight of children on the world's roads; generate action to better ensure their safety; and promote the inclusion of safe and sustainable transport in the post-2015 development agenda.

In preparation for these interventions, the road safety stakeholders have agreed to mobilize resources for successful implementation. The law enforcement agencies namely the Namibian Police Force, City Police, Road Authority's Transport Inspectors and relevant municipal traffic units will join hands with the NRSC and the MVA Fund in rolling out these initiatives.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Namibian Defence Force and private emergency response teams will strategically place ambulances across the targeted routes of the B1, B2 and B6 during the period.

Unofficial checkpoints will also be arranged to serve as a rest points for some travellers and also as a traffic calming measure. We will therefore activate 4 such rest points (2 on B1 and 1 each on B2 and B6 along the identified roads.

Members of the Media, as road safety partners, we cannot over-emphasize your involvement in road safety matters. Needless to say, road safety is

everyone's responsibility and I believe that it is opportune to use this platform to express our appreciation in terms of your contribution in disseminating much needed road safety messages to the public. Please continue to help us in our endeavour to save lives as we roll-out the Independence and Easter Road Safety Campaign.

While counting on your usual cooperation, we look forward to your participation in the Independence and Easter Road Safety Campaign 2015.

Deemed Signed

**EUGENE TENDEKULE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Deemed Signed

**ROSALIA MARTINS-HAUSIKU
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**