

## MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

### Press Statement on Work Stoppage Threats by Truck Drivers in Zambia

Lusaka, 04th August, 2019 - Government has noted with concern the voice and text messages circulating on social media by a selection of serving drivers and non-serving drivers who are inciting other drivers to go on a work stoppage without respecting the process that has been agreed upon by the Drivers Associations, Driver Unions and Government through my Ministry and Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

I want to urge all well-meaning drivers to be patriotic to this country and ignore those that are bent at negating the positive contribution of your services to this economy.

The Government of the Republic of Zambia led by His Excellency Dr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu is concerned with the conduct of some transporters that pay meagre salaries to their drivers and will do everything possible through my Ministry and Ministry of Labour and Social Security to ensure that conditions of service are harmonised and improved in earnest. As well as ensure that employment of foreign drivers when such services can be offered by local drivers is stopped with immediate effect.

Please bring the information to the Ministry on those ills. I am aware that some demands have already been acted upon by my Ministry through the Road Transport and Safety Agency while other Ministries are equally working on the components that relate to their respective portfolio functions.

Going forward Government will immediately embark on consultations to consider implementing sector based minimum wage for the transport sector.

I call upon all the drivers to call off their impending action and wait for the execution of the agreed actions with your union.

My Ministry remains open to positive contributions from all Zambians for us to achieve our vision of Zambia becoming the hub of transport and logistics in Southern Africa by 2030.

I urge all professional truck drivers to have a united front through their unions and engage the Ministry of Labour and Social Security for guidance on the means of uplifting working conditions for all drivers in the sector.

I request all stakeholders in the road transport sector to work with Government to enhance a sustainable road transport system for the country.

Issued  
Hon. Mutotwe  
Minister of Transport and Communications.

by  
Mutotwe

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Kafwaya