



ROAD TRANSPORT AND SAFETY AGENCY

PRESS STATEMENT

LOCAL PROFESSIONAL TRUCK DRIVERS, GOVERNMENT DIFFUSE IMPASSE

LUSAKA, 3rd August 2019 - Government, through the Ministry of Transport and Communications have reached a consensus with the local professional truck drivers regarding a number of issues that were presented to the Ministry in relation to the professional truck drivers' operations.

This follows a meeting that was held on 2nd August 2019 chaired by Ministry of Transport and Communication, Permanent Secretary, Eng. Misheck Lungu.

The meeting that was also attended by members of the Drivers' Association of Zambia and the Labour Commissioner, Mr. Chanda Kaziya.

The meeting was called by the Ministry of Transport and Communications following a recent work stoppage threat by the local professional truck drivers.

Following deliberations with stakeholders, it was agreed that all associations could not represent its members on labour matters and therefore all labour matters affecting professional truck drivers in Zambia must be dealt with by the respective labour Unions.

In this vein the Director of Transport under the Ministry of Transport and Communications has been tasked to arrange a meeting where the labour Commissioner will appraise all professional truck drivers on the relevant labour laws.

It was further resolved that the RTSA must introduce a mechanism that will ensure that a thorough due diligence is conducted on all applicants for Road Service Licences (RSLs), which should also include a systematic procedure for scrutinizing all applicants to ensure that all applicants are compliant to set standards as prescribed in the Road Traffic Act, as well as compliant to labour laws.

The respective unions representing Truck Drivers were also instructed to write to all truck operators to inform them about the planned visits to all work places to follow up on labour matters.

The meeting also resolved that all Labour unions representing truck drivers should form one joint Negotiating Team to negotiate a Sector Minimum Wage for all truck drivers.

The meeting and subsequent resolutions follows a work stoppage threat recently made by the local professional truck drivers protesting unfavorable working conditions, and

challenges relating to licensing such as the validity period of Public Service vehicle (PSVs) Drivers' licence.

Issued by:

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