

## With Frederick Mubanga

Road Safety

- Road Transport and Safety Agency -



### ...responding to Government's drive of adopting smart innovations to accelerate the vision 2030

RANSPORT plays a crucial role in so-cio-economic development by providing access for people to markets, healthcare, education, employment, recreation and other key facilities and services.

good and efficient transport system is important in achieving the goals of poverty eradication and sustainable development. Roads dominate the transport sector in Zambia just other African like many

The World Bank has estimated that about US\$200 billion of trade in Africa is carried by the region's trunk road network comprising strategic trading corridors linking deep sea-ports to economic hinterlands.

While the rest of the developing world has been tapping into global value chains and raising international exports, African trade has, on average, stagnated and in some cases even regressed. The impact of transport on trade is measured by two key elements. These are timely delivery of goods and the delivery cost.

In this regard, the condition of transport infrastructure and the regulatory framework are critical factors in determining the smoothness and cost-effectiveness of trade flows in any geographical setting.

Most African countries like Zambia face huge costs associated with transportation. Although most share the problem of high transport costs, landlocked countries face the most excessive transport costs recorded on the continent.

Zambia is a land-locked country with significant potential in its transportation sector. The country has a road network of approximately 67, 671 km. The country shares its borders with eight countries and these are the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Tanzania, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique and Angola.

The design of the road system resembles a "hub and spoke" format with Lusaka as the hub. Virtually all trunk highways go through Lusaka.

The Zambian government under President Hakainde Hichilema have committed to take advantage of the country's geographical location to transform the country into a regional transport and logistics hub and improve the road safety profile.

The overriding objective of the UPND government in the transport sector is to strengthen domestic and regional connectivity, with the view to connecting producers with markets, supporting participation in regional and global value chains, lowering the cost of doing business, enhancing competitiveness, and improving public service delivery.

Transport and other logistics procedures, rules and regulations are critical in lowering the cost of doing business and ensuring the smooth flow of the supply chain to spur economic growth.

To accelerate the government's agenda of ensuring an effective transport policy for supporting efficient and equitable licensing and registration procedures as well as the fair distribution of and access to economic and transport business opportunities, through transparent and impartial procurement and contracting rules and practices, the Road Transport and safety Agency (RTSA) – the lead road safety and transport regulator in Zambia seeks to realign its operations to address the mismatch regulating the road transport sector in regard to enforcement of traffic rules, regulations and

other statutory obligations.
As part of the transformation agenda, the RTSA has developed an IT-based smart enforcement app for implementation of rules and regulations related to roadbased violations by motor-ists and Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) such as trucks and buses, a move aimed at reducing transportation and



logistics cost of the industry.

The smart enforcement app, supported by the smart mobile phone is currently being implemented on a pilot basis under the RTSA.

The mobile phone-based smart enforcement app supports the automated enforcement of vehicle and driver related violations such as validity of Road Tax, Certificate of Fitness, Driving Licence, including the Road Service Licence (RSL) for commercial vehicles.

The enforcement mechanism also allows the officer to issue all fines, penalties, or any other punitive measure through the app, thus

ensuring transparency.

By using the integrated Smart Enforcement App, data related to the all Zambia registered vehicles on the road would be drawn from the existing RTSA databases and this data would

be available to enforcement officers on the road for scanning using mobile phones installed with the Smart Enforcement App.

The RTSA is leveraging on various ITC-based solutions to innovate technology driven enforcement mechanism as a means of creating a favourable environment for transport and logistic as well as improving the road safety profile of the country.

One of the major challenges that the smart enforcement application is addressing is delays due to random stoppages for physical checking of vehicles and verification of documents.

The app would help in decreasing the number of physical checks of vehicles by enforcement officers, a strategy to reduce logistics costs on road transporta-

The RTSA is working on widening the implemention of the Smart Enforcement Application on a large scale bases covering all the parts of the country after the ITC-based solution is officially launched in the fourth quar-

Moving forward, the RTSA will continue working with transport, logistics and road safety stakeholders to make the application more effective and efficient in responding to the government's drive of adopting smart innovations to accelerate the vision 2030, to become "A prosperous middle-income nation by the year 2030. \*The author is Head – Public

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