****

**ROAD TRANSPORT AND SAFETY AGENCY**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**RTSA WON’T RELENT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**LUSAKA, 2nd August 2023** –The Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA) will not relent in its resolve to enforce the Road Traffic Act No. 11 0f 2022, especially given the latest spate of road traffic accidents involving public service vehicles that have resulted in the death of 13 people in the last three and half weeks.

This statement follows the action taken by Bus and Taxis Owners Association of Zambia (BTOAZ) to boycott a meeting that was called by the Agency to review the road transport and safety status of the country following this spate of road traffic accidents.

The RTSA, has said that the Agency has the mandate to ensure safety on the roads as well as enforce the road traffic laws and regulations.

The Agency is not going to allow itself to be arm-twisted by stakeholders who are refusing to engage with it, in an apparent effort to inhibit the Agency from sanctioning operators that may be contravening the law.

In the latest incident, five people died last Friday in a road traffic accident which happened near Amadous Farm along the Great North Road around 06:30 hours in Kabwe after the driver of a Likili bus tried to improperly overtake a Freightliner truck in a curve.

The RTSA has reiterated its call to all Public Service Vehicle (PSV) drivers to always adhere to road traffic laws and regulations in order to avoid road traffic accidents as well as being in conflict with the law.

The Agency would like to urge members of the Public to report bad, careless and dangerous drivers to the RTSA National Call Centre on the toll-free line-983 and the WhatsApp line 0965-429499.

**Issued by:**

**The Public Relations Department**