



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

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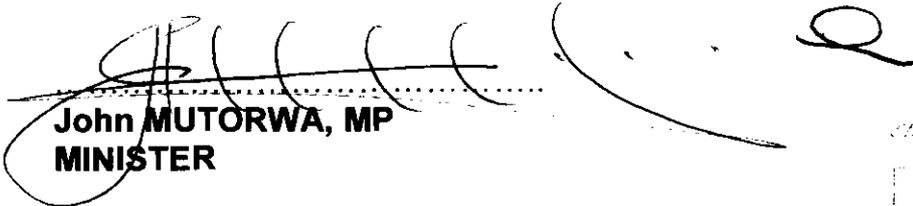
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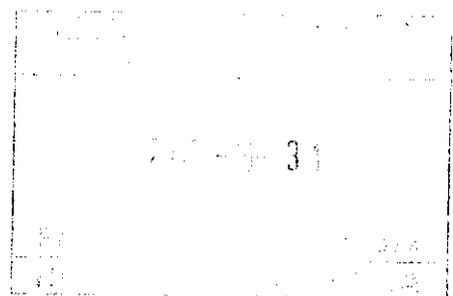
Honourable Dr Samuel K. MBAMBO
THE GOVERNOR
Kavango East Region
Private Bag 2124
RUNDU
Republic of Namibia

**OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLES' ACCIDENT FUND'S
(MVA) REGIONAL OFFICE.**

1. The MVA Regional Office, in Rundu, will be officially inaugurated, on 31 May 2018. I was scheduled to do the official inauguration.
2. Due to medical reasons, I am not able to officiate at the event.
3. Kindly, officially inaugurate the MVA Regional Office, on my behalf, on 31 May 2018, in Rundu. The STATEMENT is attached.
4. Accept, Honourable Governor, my most deepest gratitude and sincere thanks.


John MUTORWA, MP
MINISTER

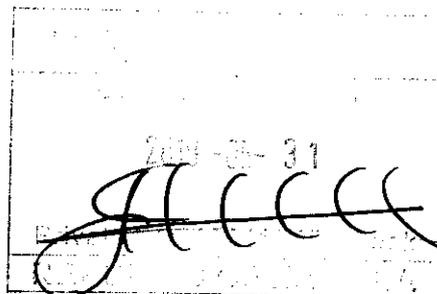
- Copies: 1. PS: MWT;
2. Chairperson: MVA Board of Directors;
3. CEO: MVA.





KEYNOTE ADDRESS
BY HONOURABLE JOHN MUTORWA
MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT
AT THE MVA FUND RUNDU SERVICE CENTRE INAUGURATION
RUNDU – 31 MAY 2018

- Kavango East Regional Governor, Honourable Dr. Samuel K. Mbambo;
- Mayor of the Town of Rundu, Her Worship Verna Sinimbo
- Pastor Mukuve;
- MVA Fund Board Chairperson, Dr. Shitaleni Herman and other Board Members present;
- MVA Fund Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Rosalia Martins-Hausiku;
- MVA Fund Executive Leadership Team;
- MVA Fund Service Providers;
- Council Members of the National Road Safety Council present;
- Rundu Town Council Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ismael Howoseb;
- Chief Regional Officer of Kavango East Region, Mr. Ludwig Thikusho;
- All Law Enforcement Representatives – Namibian Police and Traffic Officers;
- Captains of Industry present;
- All Invited Guests;
- Members of the Media;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.



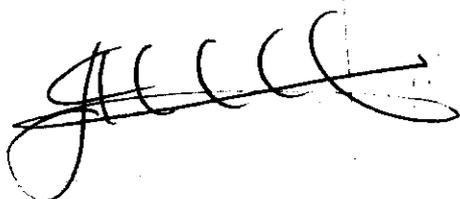
economic prosperity, or the loss of intellectuals and leaders who would be able to ensure the attainment of our national objectives.

- 1.4. It is therefore gratifying to have observed that the MVA Fund contributes to various arms of nation building, in alignment to our Vision 2030, National Development Plans, Harambee Prosperity Plan and the Namibian Chapter of the Decade of Action for Road Safety.
- 1.5. Ladies and Gentlemen! Congruent to the principles, espoused in these national development objectives, the MVA Fund contributes to good corporate governance and social transformation, through accountable transparency, excellent service delivery and empowerment of young people through the provision of financial means to further studies.
- 1.6. In line with the Namibian Chapter of the Decade of Action for Road Safety and specifically the objectives of Pillar 4, which relate to road user behaviour and education and Pillar 5 which relates to post crash care, both of which bear direct relevance to the Fund, I am reliably informed that: the Fund has played a significant role in upgrading standards of public health care facilities, which is gradually enhancing public access to quality health care.

It is therefore only fair to state that: the Fund occupies a position of significance, in the improvement of social welfare, through infrastructural and skills capacity building, as well as through their extended rehabilitation programme, which true to its vision, supports claimants' journey to independence.

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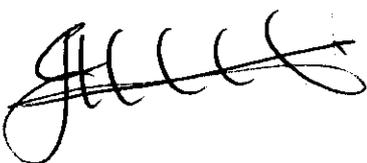
- 1.7. Thirdly, this event has brought together a number of important role players in road safety, an opportunity which should be utilized to strategize and cement ideas, regarding the state of road safety in our country. As it were, road traffic injury and death, have now become an unacceptable and avoidable daily occurrence, an indisputable social equity issue, as the underprivileged and vulnerable are most frequently also vulnerable road users!
- 1.8. These are pedestrians, cyclists, passengers, and users of unsafe public transport, who are disproportionately affected and exposed to risks and road crashes. Needless to say, this can lead to a cycle of poverty aggravated by loss of income.
- 1.9. Ladies and Gentlemen: it pleases me to mention that, following the 2nd Global High Level Conference on Road Safety, which was held in Brasilia, Brazil in November 2015, our Government undertook to explore the concept of universal health coverage, as the important role of public health, in terms of reducing road traffic fatalities and injuries and improving health outcomes. As Government, we acknowledge that: there is a shared responsibility to move towards a world free from road traffic fatalities and serious injuries, and that addressing road safety demands multi-stakeholder collaboration. Our Government further concedes that: to only focus on road users, as a cause of crashes is inappropriate and insufficient, as crashes result from multiple causes, many of which are linked to social determinants and risk factors. At this juncture, allow me to urge the MVA Fund to commence as soon as possible, with the study on the causes of crashes in stipulated regions, and present such findings

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to my office for agreeable and workable solutions, by end of August 2018.

1.10. Honorable Governor Mbambo,

- (a) I am discouraged by the revelation that according to road crash statistics collated by the MVA Fund Call Centre for the year 2017, the Kavango East Region accounts for 24% of roll-over crashes.
- (b) Equally shocking is the fact that 53% of all crashes that occurred in Kavango East Region were pedestrian related!
- (c) In fact, while people of all age groups suffer injuries due to road crashes, young adults are most impacted, as nearly half of all persons injured in pedestrian-related crashes in 2017 were aged 16-35 years (50%), compared to 47% in 2016.
- (d) Correspondingly, 10% of persons injured were children aged 15 years and younger, who in most cases are vulnerable as pedestrian road users.
- (e) Crashes involving pedestrians are seen to occur due to a lack of road safety adherence from the pedestrian themselves, as well as speeding on the part of vehicle drivers.
- (f) In addition, high levels of and alcohol consumption and abuse failure to use pedestrian crossings are implicated in pedestrian crashes.
- (g) Needless to say, these statistics are shocking as education and prevention efforts yielded thus far are expected to produce favourable results in terms of a decrease in these numbers.

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(h) Evidently, we still have a long way to go if we are to ensure the safety of each and every road user and ultimately achieve the Decade of Action 2011-2020 goals. Needless to say: we must intensify our collective and individual collaborative and cooperative efforts, to minimize the unacceptable high number of Road Accidents, on our roads.

1.11. In lieu of such improvement in our road safety arena, especially in Kavango East Region, I call upon the MVA Fund to fast-track the establishment of a fully functional working group, comprised of law enforcement agencies, road safety agencies, business community, education fraternity, civil society, activists, emergency medical response services and health practitioners. Similarly, faith-based organizations, the public transport industry, local authorities and all other relevant entities should commit fully to improve the state of road safety in Kavango East Region.

1.12. It is time that we collectively reinforce our commitment as different role-players to ensure greater participation and more tangible results, in road safety as human suffering turns reducing road traffic deaths and injuries into an urgent development priority. Investment of appropriate resources in road safety has a positive impact on public health and economy, and such investment should thus be upgraded.

Ladies & Gentlemen

1.13. As I conclude, allow me to congratulate the MVA Fund on the successful rebranding of the Fund's image. I am delighted that important features of your brand were retained and continue to

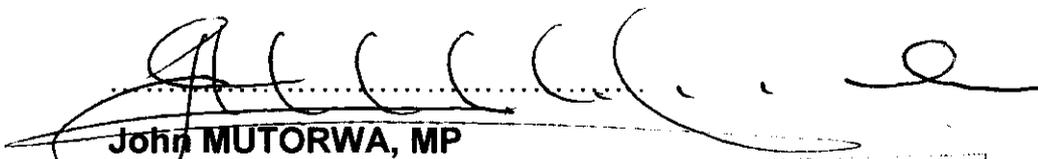
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represent a place of comfort, healing and focus on customers. Indeed, the hand and the newly incorporated colours represent support, reassurance, rejuvenation, growth and restoration of the body and soul, thereby symbolizing the Fund's continued pursuit of excellence as it fulfils its mandate.

As former American President Barak Obama has said: "Let it be said by our children's children that: when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations." It takes prudent planning, a character of humility, commitment and accountability to achieve results in pursuit of your mandate, and I thank the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund for its extraordinary work and commitment towards the nation. Your intervention and investment have gone a long way in enhancing the lives of those affected by road crashes, and certainly reduce the pain of injury and subsequent suffering.

1.14. Congratulations MVA Fund, on the acquisition of this piece of land and new office building as you continue to fulfill your commitment to diligently serve the Namibian road users in an innovative and superior manner.

I thank you.


John MUTORWA, MP
MINISTER

