

**PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS  
AND TRANSPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF  
ESWATINI; CHIEF NDALALUHLAZA NDWANDWE; AT THE CELEBRATION  
OF THE UN ROAD SAFETY WEEK 2023, 15 MAY 2023 (VIRTUAL –  
ORGANISED BY UNECA)**

- The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety (Mr. Jean Todt)
- The African Union Commission's Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy (H. E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid)
- H.E Mr. Alemu Semie, Minister of Transport and Logistics of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- H.E Mr. Mohammed Abdeljalil, Minister of Transport and Logistic of the Kingdom of Morocco
- H.E. Mr. Ebrima Sillah, Minister of Transport, Works and Infrastructure of The Gambia
- H.E Mr. Ngalle Bibehe Jean Ernest Massena, Minister of Transport of Cameroun
- World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB) and Islamic Development Bank (IDB);
- The World Health Organisation
- Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP);
- African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)
- African Road Safety Observatory (ARSO)
- Regional Economic Commissions (RECs);
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
- Heads of Road Safety Agencies and National Data Coordinators of the
- Corridor Management Institutions;
- International Road Federation (IRF)
- Civil Society Organizations; and
- Other Development Partners.
- International motor Vehicle Inspection Committee (CITA)
- Distinguished Guests,
- The Road Safety Council's Representatives,
- Members of the Media,
- All protocol observed.

The Kingdom of Eswatini appreciates the United Nations bi-annual Global Road Safety Week (UNGRSW) 2023 which focuses on improving road safety in the world.

As a signatory to key global conventions, including, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the African Road Safety Charter to name a few, Eswatini is pleased to join the rest of the continent in celebrating the UN Global Road Safety Week set to start today and end of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023. We also embrace the theme “Sustainable Transport” that primarily focuses on promoting the use of non-motorised transport (NMT) such as walking, cycling and mass transport modes as public transport.

During the period when the country was dealing with the Covid-9 virus, EmaSwati learnt the benefits of walking and we are seeing an increase in the number of people who walk on the road either to work or as a means of exercise. His Majesty’s Government has escalated the provision of walking pathways and pavements for pedestrians to walk safely especially within the urban area where there are high numbers of pedestrians on road sides.

The Municipality of Mbabane has provided ramps on the road for the physically disabled to ease their movement around the urban area. They have also provided grids for the visually disabled to assist them in walking safely on the streets. There is also intervention at traffic lights where sounds are emitted to alert the visually disabled to know when it is safe to cross the streets.

Matsapha Town Council working with the Road Safety Council of Eswatini and Eswatini Beverages (EB) have constructed pedestrian bollards at the edge of 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Matsapha to curb pedestrian accidents and promote safe walking as a means of “green transport”.

In the country and region, cycling is largely viewed as a sport, however, the Ministry has noted the need to promote cycling as a means of transport, aimed at increasing the number of people who cycle to work and for leisure. In the medium term, the increase in the number of people who cycle regularly is expected to impact the built environment designs, where-in residential, office and retail buildings developments would incorporate lanes and parking bays for bicycles.

The roads are for all users. For this reason concerted efforts have to be undertaken to instill the culture of shared-road-use by all. Motorised-vehicle users are expected to look out for and be courteous to non-motorised vehicles like bicycles and animal-drawn carts, as well as pedestrians. In this regard, road safety campaigns are to emphasis the road safety principles that underpin Shared-Road-Use by all. Including that they should not encroach on the space reserved for non-motorised vehicle users, and also give them the right of way at crossings and junctions. This will result in reduced road crashes, and further promote green-living.

Eswatini has ordinarily had a large population of commuters using public transport as a means of transport. This scenario has changed in recent times, with shift towards more people using their own vehicles as opposed to the use of buses and mini buses. This can be attributed to increased buying power, resulting in the increase in the purchase of affordable second hand vehicles within the country, and the resultant boom of vehicles on the road. The Ministry is working on promoting and encouraging the use mass transport modes for public transportation other than the use of private vehicles.

In conclusion, let me urge all of us here today to ensure that road infrastructure is created to improve mobility of people and goods. It is time that over and above that important goal, roads are built for safety! It must no longer be an option to incorporate safety features on our road infrastructure that make walking, cycling and the use of public transport safe.

**I THANK YOU!**