



Keynote speech

Proactive measures to increase pedestrian safety in Zambia's growing road network

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Zambia is improving road infrastructure in a bid to enhance the national transport system which is vital for economic development. Increased investments in the road sector mean that traffic volumes also increase and as mobility grows the most vulnerable road user who are pedestrians should be protected. Despite the many strides that have been made in improving road and transport infrastructure Zambia continues to experience massive road traffic fatalities and injuries. In 2025 alone, 38,712 road traffic accidents were recorded, of which 2,068 were fatal, with 2,567 lives lost. Pedestrians were the most affected group, with 934 deaths which is more than any other road-user category. The figures cited represent more than mere statistics but reflect individual lives and families devastated by loss. The safety of road users in general and specifically pedestrian safety is a requirement for development. One of the most concerning trends is the impact on children. Many children in Zambia walk to and from school, often crossing high-speed roads without marked crossing points, signage, or school zone speed limits. A significant proportion of Zambia's serious pedestrian injuries occur within short distances of schools, markets, and bus stations. Protecting children is not only a policy obligation — it is a moral imperative. The national budget must cater to the needs of all citizens and expenditure on infrastructure aimed at increasing pedestrian safety. This will need proactive planning and actions which are presented in this paper.