



# **A Critical Role Of Law Enforcement In The Road Traffic Environment**

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# Presentation Outline



- The role of law enforcement in traffic environment
- Composition of Law enforcement; Namibian context
- Enabling legislations
- Key findings or practices
- Namibia road traffic situation
- Interventions
- Conclusion

# 1. The role of law enforcement in traffic environment

Most arguably, the essence of traffic law enforcement unit is to maintain law and order on traffic flow. Ultimately this ensure safety on the road. The mere visibility of traffic officers does not deter bad drivers attitudes on the road. Effectiveness of traffic policing is therefore depends on officers ability to enforce the laws. Among others, the role of traffic law enforcement revolves around;

- Enforcement of the RTTA, RTTR as well as By-Laws
- Ensure compliance to the traffic laws
- Create awareness on road safety
- Issue traffic tickets / summons
- Execute warrants of arrest
- Arrest and apprehend offenders

## 2. Composition of Law enforcement; Namibia perspective

- Traffic law enforcement is a shared responsibility and is carried out by the Namibian Police (NAMPOL) traffic officers, Roads Authority Inspectors & various Municipal traffic police officers.
- There is approximately 475 traffic officers in Namibia.
- 351 are NAMPOL officers, while 124 is made up of Municipal traffic officers
- Vehicle population stands at 366 000 registered on eNaTIS
- Ratio of 745 vehicles per officer.

### 3. Enabling legislations

Traffic law enforcement officers can only execute their mandate if they are empowered by legislations.

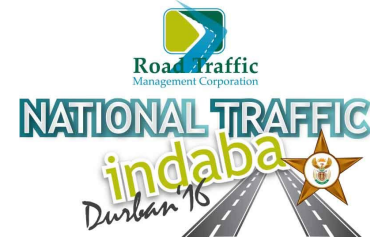
Often officers are confronted with resistance from motorists and there are instances of legal challenges against officers.

Traffic law enforcement officers derives their power from;

- Namibian Police Act, No. 19 of 1990
- Road Traffic and Transport Act, No.22 of 1999
- Road Traffic and Transport Regulations, 2001
- Municipal By-Laws



# Enabling legislations continue.....



Despite the existence of these legislations, there has been a number of legal challenges most notably in respect of;

- Appointment and authority of traffic officers to carry out traffic law enforcement
- Technicality on the use of speed camera
- Legality of Breath Alcohol Analyser for alcohol tests
- Authenticity of blood samples in drunk and driving cases

## 4. Key findings or practices

While it is society expectations for the law enforcements officers to carry out this mammoth task, there has been a number of bottlenecks resulting in ineffective service delivery, inter alia;

- There has been no uniformity in the application of the law
- Increasing number of bribery and corruption incidents
- Loopholes / grey areas in traffic legislations
- Lack of synergy / coordination between law enforcement agencies
- Traffic management system is not integrated

# Key findings or practices continues.....

- Inexperienced traffic officers
- Slow pace for adjudication of traffic offences
- Inadequate funding to procure necessary equipment
- Non compliance by motorists



Some  
scences on  
Namibian  
roads



## 5. Namibia Road Traffic Situation

- Between January – November 2016, road fatalities stood at 635.
- 70% of road casualties includes passengers
- Most occurred between 16h00 and 18h00 as well as 18h00 and 20h00 mainly on Fridays (16.7%), Mondays (15.2%) and Saturdays (14.5%)
- Roll over crashes accounts for 30% with accidents involving pedestrians accounts for (26%)

## 6. Interventions

Introduction of **OPOTULI** “We are here” Campaign which aims at;

- Enhance public knowledge and awareness with regard to Drink & Driving, Roadworthiness of vehicles, Seatbelt safety, Plan your trip on rest-points and Accident Response Number
- Enhance visibility on B1 & B2 Routes with Law Enforcement agencies & Emergency Response Team
- Reduce fatalities and serious injuries by 50%

# 7. Approach & Schedule



## Law Enforcement;

- Bi-monthly joint operations will be conducted over weekends for the next six months both in town for Random Breath Testing & Roadworthy checks on national roads

## Road Safety Education

- Provide information and all relevant road safety tips to road users through the media and face-to-face interactions
- Popularize Accident Response Number & traffic violation report numbers

## **Approach & Schedule continue.....**

### **Emergency Response**

- Coordination of Emergency Response
- Joint awareness campaign on Accident Response  
Number

### **Adjudication of Traffic Offences**

- Strengthen campaign by implementing standby courts



## 7. conclusion

The role of law enforcement in traffic environment is a complex, yet critical one. It requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach. This calls for responsive legislations, adequate funding, well resourced and trained personnel as well as speedier adjudication of traffic offences.

I thank you