

# AN EVALUATION OF RTSA'S ROAD SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS FOR IMPROVING BUS DRIVERS ROAD CRAFT: THE CASE OF LUSAKA PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLE BUS DRIVERS

By

## ALBERT KAOYE MWANZA

# A REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA IN PARTIAL FUFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER IN COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (MCD).

# THE UNIVERTY OF ZAMBIA

©2015

#### DECLARATION

I declare that this report has not been submitted for a degree in this university or indeed in any other university in this world.

FULL NAMES:

SIGNATURE:

**DATE:**.....

All rights reserved. No part of this report may be reproduced or stored in any form or by any means without permission from the author or the University of Zambia.

### **CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL**

This report by ALBERT KAOYE MWANZA has been approved as partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the Master of Communication for Development (M.C.D) by the University of Zambia, Lusaka.

SUPERVISOR:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:....

#### ABSTRACT

This report is based on an evaluation of the impact of the Road Transport and Safety Agency's (RTSA) messages on the community to bring about social change. It is an assessment of how effective RTSA's communication have been in making drivers more road craft and thereby help reduce the ever increasing road traffic accidents in the country.

The report was fed by information by a study that was undertaken in Lusaka. The study employed questionnaires, interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FDGs) for data collection. It was undertaken to enlighten the public on the link between communication and development.

Public Service Drivers both local and inter town have in the recent past made headlines in not only causing road traffic accidents but also flouting traffic rules as stipulated by RTSA. This trend has brought untold misery not only to the owners of the motor vehicles for loss of business but also to the passengers because some are left dead and others totally physically crippled and thereby leading them to total dependency on others.

This study is significant in that it has outlined the successes and failures of RTSA in educating people in being road craft and in turn reduces road traffic accidents. It has also brought out issues and challenges associated with communication strategies to Public Service Drivers.

The study was undertaken as a requirement to the partial fulfilment of the Master of Communication for Development (M.C.D) of the Department of Mass Communication of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Zambia.

#### DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my family; my late father Mr. Teddy Kandundu Mwanza for the confidence he had in me, my mother Mrs. Theresa Chembe Mwanza, for the source of inspiration, my wife Letitia Mapulanga Mwanza, for the support and encouragement, my son Chikondi Mwanza for the motivation and my sisters and brothers, Maureen, Brian, Elifa, Nchele, Nicholas, Lumbiwe and Chipo.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the following people for their immeasurable contributions during the period of my study:

My supervisor Mr. Fidelis Muzyamba, my lecturers Mr. Kenny Makungu and Dr. Elijah Bwalya, these people together with the other departmental staff's dedication to work and genuine counsel and academic guidance made this study succeed.

My gratitude also goes to my course mates especially Terence Nyirongo and Smart Sakala for the advice and encouragement.

My special thanks also go to the staff of Road Transport and Safety Agency led by Mr. Zindaba Soko, for their assistance during my attachment at their organisation.

Also deserving thanks are the chairmen of Kulima Tower and Millennium bus stations for their warm reception and support and all the drivers who took time to answer the questionnaires.

Lastly my family for all the social and financial support rendered during my study.

I take full responsibility of any error/errors in this report.

#### ALBERT KAOYE MWANZA

University of Zambia

Lusaka, Zambia. 2015

### ACRONYMS USED IN THE PAPER

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HIV	Human Immune Virus
HMC	Highly Motorised Countries
LMC	Lowly Motorised Countries
RTSA	Road Transport and Safety Agency
WHO	World Health Organisation
VRU	Vulnerable Road Users
MVA	Motor Vehicle Accidents

- RTA Road Traffic Accidents
- PSV Public Service Vehicle
- PAPECA Passengers, Pedestrians and Cyclists Association

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Titlei
Declarationii
Copyrightiii
Certificate of Approvaliv
Abstractv
Dedicationvi
Acknowledgementsvii
Acronymsviii
CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND
1.0 Introduction
1.1 Background to the problem1
1.1.1 Institutional Background of RTSA7
1.1.2 Functions of RTSA7
1.1.3 Composition of RTSA8
1.1.4 Zambia's Country Profile10
1.1.5 Zambia's economic performance1

1.3 Rationale	14
1.4 Objectives	15
1.4.1 General objectives	15
1.4.2 Specific objectives	15
1.4.3 Research questions	16

### CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction	17
2.1 Literature Review	17
CHAPTER THREE: CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWO	ORK
3.0 Introduction	28
3.1 Conceptual Definitions	28
3.1.1 Communication	28
3.1.2 Intra-person communication	28
3.1.3 Interpersonal communication	29
3.1.4 Group communication	29
3.1.5 Mass Communication	29
3.1.6 Message	29
3.1.7 Channel	29

3.1.8 Development	30
3.1.9 Communication strategy	30
3.2.0 Knowledge	30
3.3 Theories	31
3.3.1 Self Fulfilling Prophecy	31
3.3.2 Multi Step Flow Theory	31
3.3.3 The Agenda Setting Theory	32
3.3.4 Diffusion of Innovation Theory	32

## **CHAPTER FOUR: METHODOLOGY**

4.0 Introduction
4.1 Research design
4.2 Methods
4.2.1 Quantitative Survey
4.2.2 Qualitative Survey
4.2.3 Focus Group Discussions
4.2.4 In depth interviews
4.2.5 Participant Observation
4.3 Sampling procedure

4.0 Data gathering techniques	4
4.4.1 Questionnaires	4
4.4.2 In depth interviews	5
4.4.3 Focus Group Discussions	5
4.4.4 Participant observation	5
4.4.5 Data analysis	35
4.5 Ethical considerations	36
4.6 Limitations of the study	6
CHAPTER FIVE: PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS	

5.0 Introduction	37
5.1 General public questionnaire	.37
5.1.1 Age Distribution of respondents	.38
5.1.2 Educational Distribution of respondent	.39
5.1.3 Levels of awareness of RTSA communications	.39
5.1.4 Main activities of RTSA	40
5.1.5 Radio as a source of information of RTSA	41
5.1.6 T.V as a source of information of RTSA	.41
5.1.7 News paper as a source of information on RTSA	.42

5.1.8 Internet as a source of information on RTSA42
5.1.9 Frequency of RTSA messages on radio43
5.2.0 Frequency of RTSA messages on T.V43
5.2.1 Frequency of RTSA messages in newspapers
5.2.2 Frequency of RTSA messages on internet
5.2.3 Messages of RTSA through road shows45
5.2.4 Attitudes of Respondents towards RTSA45
5.2.5 Reasons for attitudes towards RTSA46
5.2.6 Is RTSA the main source of information on road safety?47
5.2.7 Respondents view on RTSA Message effectiveness
5.2.8 Reasons for perception on effectiveness of RTSA messages
5.3. Focus Group Discussion
5.4 Interviews with RTSA personnel
CHAPTER SIX: INTERPRETATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS
6.0 Interpretation key findings51
6.1 What messages does RTSA disseminate to the public on road safety?
6.2 How is the response of PSV drivers to RTSA efforts?
6.3 How does RTSA service the PSV drivers?

# 6.4 What channels does RTSA use to communicate to the public on road safety and

6.5 How have messages from RTSA transformed driver's attitudes, behaviour and practices
on the road?

#### CHAPTER SEVEN: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

#### **List of Tables and Figures**

Figure 1: Table showing accidents per province between 2004 and 2007
Figure 2: Table showing accidents and fatalities per 10,000 from 2004 to 2007
Figure 3: Motor vehicle importation 2010-2011
Figure 4: Table showing road deaths in Africa in 2010
Figure 5: Age distribution of the public questionnaire respondents
Figure 6: Table showing Education levels of the respondents
Figure 7: Table showing respondents who used radio as a source of
Information
Figure 9: Table showing main activities that respondents knew
Figure 10: Table showing respondents who use radio as a source of information

Figure 11: Table showing respondents who use newspapers as a source of information

Figure 12: Table showing respondents who use the internet as a source of information

Figure 13: Table showing frequency of RTSA messages gotten on radio by respondents

Figure 14: Table showing frequency of RTSA messages gotten from T.V by respondents

**Figure 15**: Table showing frequency of RTSA messages gotten from newspapers by respondents

Figure 16: Table showing how frequent respondents got RTSA messages from the internet

**Figure 17**: Table showing frequency of RTSA messages gotten from road shows by respondents

Figure 18: Table showing attitudes of respondents towards RTSA

Figure 19: Table showing reasons for respondents' attitudes

**Figure 19**: Table showing whether RTSA was the respondent's main source of information on road safety

Figure 21: Table showing respondents' view on RTSA's messages effectiveness

Figure 22: Table showing reasons for respondents' view of whether RTSA's messages are

effective or not

Figure 23: Pie chart showing the level of education of the respondents

Figure 24: Chart showing sex distribution of respondents

Figure 25: Chart showing age distribution of respondents

**Figure 26**: Graph showing main activities of RTSA respondents knew

Figure 27: Pie chart showing respondents attitude towards RTSA messages