

MVA Fund warns UN Staff members about speeding

The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) in partnership with the Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund held a road safety town hall for all UN staff members on 24 August under the theme, “Slow Down, Save Lives”.

Road traffic accidents are a global health concern, and road traffic deaths have increased by about 13% globally since 2000. The World Health Organization has found that, “Over 3,400 people die on the world’s roads every day and tens of millions of people are injured or disabled every year”.



UN staff members learning about the importance of safe driving. *UN Namibia*

For this reason, **Goal 3 ‘Good Health and Well-being’** of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020.

According to the MVA Fund, 477 deaths have been reported on Namibian roads from January to mid-August. The types of crashes are categorized as roll over (29%), collisions (28%) and pedestrian accidents (22%). The factors contributing to road accidents are human factors (60-90%), vehicle (15-30%), environment (3-5%) and road (5-20%).

Mr. Sidney Boois, a representative from the MVA Fund, cautioned UN staff members to be vigilant on the road and explained that the major contributor to road accidents is speeding. Boois explained with a 5% reduction in speed there is likely to be a 3% reduction in road accidents. He advised the audience to take other preventative measures such as wearing their seatbelts at all times. Likewise, Boois encouraged staff to not text and drive, as it increases the risk of crashing by 25%.

The MVA Fund has a mandate to design, promote and implement road safety and pays out an accident cover to victims of motor-vehicle accidents. The organization has put special measures in place to ensure that people who were involved in any kind of accident can resume with their normal lives. Boois explained people do not get coverage from the MVA Fund when driving without a valid driver’s license, in possession of a stolen vehicle, or under the influence of alcohol.