

PRESS RELEASE



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EX-FLEET TRACTORS TAKE ON DRIVER TRAINING ROLE IN ZAMBIA

The Industrial Training Centre Trust (ITCT) in Lusaka is putting its latest recruits through their paces, following the delivery of a fleet of professional driver training vehicles from Transaid, the official charity of the road transport and logistics industry.

Three trucks, two trailers and a car, kindly donated by MAN Truck & Bus and Britcom, were officially presented to the ITCT in the presence of Zambia's Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Vocational Training, Mr Jonnas Shakafuswa. The Honourable Minister gave a speech thanking Transaid for the donation, outlining the importance of professional driver training to improve road safety, and closed with an appeal to stakeholders to support this initiative and send their truck drivers for professional driver training at the ITCT.

Transaid and the ITCT have been working together since 2002 to improve professional driver training standards and as a formal partnership since August 2008. Driver trainers from leading companies within the UK transport industry have visited the centre to share best practice, whilst experts in fields such as tyre safety, management and health & safety have provided valuable expertise and materials. Companies providing this support have included MAN Truck & Bus, Wincanton, CEVA Logistics, Michelin, Britcom, Norbert Dentressangle Logistics (UK), Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics, Hoyer, Jaguar and Land Rover, DHL and Stagecoach.

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Transaid's Zambia Programme Manager, Caroline Barber says: "With the backing of our European supporters, Transaid and the ITCT can help to make Zambia's professional drivers safer, teaching them beyond basic vehicle manoeuvring knowledge and skill, towards a greater understanding of risks, risk reduction and self-awareness. This in turn, will help to reduce the number of fatalities on Zambia's roads."

Des Evans from MAN Truck & Bus comments: "MAN has supported Transaid over several years and the integration of MAN, our skills and products into the Zambian project is arguably the most exciting so far. We are very pleased to offer help with both the driver training and the general development of the African Transport industry and hope this project will lead to a bigger and better future for all those involved."

Paul Mercer, a joint Managing Director of Britcom, added: "We are delighted to be able to provide these trailers to support the excellent work that Transaid does within Africa, and urge more people in the industry to get involved to help make a difference to the lives of families across Africa."

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Additional background:

Road crashes are responsible for 1.3 million deaths and 50 million injuries per year globally*. Tragically it is the lower income families who are most affected and families are being driven deeper into poverty by the loss of breadwinners and the added burden of caring for members disabled by road traffic injuries. In addition to this human suffering, the Zambian Road Transport Safety Agency (RTSA) has estimated that road crashes are costing the country 1.3 trillion kwacha each year (approximately £178 million).

There is also a severe shortage of trained HGV drivers in landlocked Zambia and its neighbouring countries. The Transport industry is desperate for trained drivers but lacks a facility to provide this scale of quality professionally trained drivers.

To bridge this gap in professional driver training, Transaid is implementing a programme to build the capacity of the ITCT, a quasi-government facility in Lusaka and develop the professional driver-training offering.

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Transaid is a UK transport development charity aimed at tackling poverty and disadvantage by building transport skills and knowledge in the developing world. Transaid has been working in the South African Development Community (SADC) region since 1998. Transaid has worked with Ministries of Health, including Zambia, on transport management systems to improve efficiency and service delivery and reduce costs. Transaid has also implemented a bicycle ambulance project in Zambia in 2008.

**WHO (2004), World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention, ISBN 02 4 156260 9, World Health Organization, Geneva.*

Note to Editor:

Transaid (www.transaid.org) is an international development agency that aims to improve people's quality of life in the developing world by making transport more available and affordable. It was founded by Save The Children and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (UK) and works by sharing skills and knowledge with local people to enable them to put in place and manage efficient transport systems.

Transaid's core work includes creating transport management systems for the public sector and assisting with the provision of professional driving qualification development and the training of driver trainers. It also assists with teaching preventive vehicle maintenance management and introducing local, low cost transport solutions including its innovative bicycle ambulance. Transaid also helps promote HIV, AIDS and road safety awareness and shares its specialist knowledge with the humanitarian aid sector.

Transaid enjoys strong backing from the transport and logistics industry and the active involvement of its patron, HRH The Princess Royal.

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