

**Message of the Honourable Anil Kumar Bachoo, Minister of Public Infrastructure,  
National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping, on the occasion of the  
UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020**

Dear Students,

It is with great pleasure that I am addressing you on the occasion of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety which is officially being launched the world over on 11 May 2011.

As Minister responsible for Road Safety I deem it appropriate to address you in particular as you are the future of this country. I firmly believe that you can help improve the situation with regard to road safety by adopting and persuading your family and friends to adopt good road usage practices and thus reduce road accidents and save lives.

It is important for you to note that:

- 1.3 million people are killed worldwide on the roads each year,
- 50 million are injured and many become disabled as a result,
- 90% of these casualties occur in developing countries, and
- Road accidents constitute the No. 1 cause of death for young people worldwide

You may be aware of all the initiatives Government has taken regarding road safety through education campaigns, provision of footpaths and handrails in risk areas, advertisement on billboards and safety campaigns in the media. It is also important to wear seat belts in cars, helmets while riding motorcycles and use pedestrian crossings. It is an offence to talk on mobile phones while driving. You may have observed that many people are killed or injured during accidents because they are not careful enough.

I am therefore appealing to you to take care while walking on or crossing roads and to persuade your parents not to drive under the influence of alcohol or talk on mobile phones while driving, obey traffic rules and speed limits. It is better to be safe than to be sorry. Road accidents **are** preventable.

Please remember that Road safety is a collective effort of the government and people. While government leaves no stone unturned in providing good and safe roads and enforcing strict adherence to traffic rules, the right attitude of people with respect to traffic rules and responsible driving constitute the first steps on the long road to 100% safety on the roads.

I rely on your collaboration to help reduce the rate of accidents on our roads and avoid unnecessary loss of lives.

Thank you.