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AVENUE

10 July 2026

**Director, Department of Road Transport and Safety, Ministry of Transport
and Public Works, Republic of Botswana**

**Director General, Office de Gestion du Fret Multimodal, Democratic
Republic of Congo**

Executive Director, Ministry of Works and Transport, Republic of Namibia

Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Republic of Malawi

Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Republic of Mozambique

CEO, Cross Border Road Transport Agency, Republic of South Africa

Secretary for Transport and Logistics, Republic of Zambia

**REF: NON-RECOGNITION OF ZIMBABWE DRIVING LICENCES BY
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructural Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe has the honour to refer to the above-mentioned matter.

Concerns have been raised regarding challenges faced by Zimbabwean transport operators and drivers at enforcement checkpoints in SADC Member States. Specifically, enforcement officers have reportedly encountered difficulties in interpreting the new Zimbabwe Professional Driving Permit (PrDP) and its associated licence categories.

The new Zimbabwe driving licence framework designates Code P as the category for operating passenger service vehicles. This code is a superior and comprehensive authorisation, permitting the holder to drive all heavy goods vehicles, including those transporting hazardous and dangerous substances (Code D). In the same manner, a holder of a Code D licence is authorised to operate vehicles conveying general cargo, as the category encompasses all classes of freight-carrying vehicles.

In addition, the PrDP is endorsed on the new plastic licence card, while the medical certificate and Defensive Driving Certificate (DDC) must be carried separately by the driver. These two documents are not yet embedded on the licence card. The PrDP is valid for two years, while the medical certificate is valid for one year; endorsing the medical certificate on the licence would require annual licence renewal, hence the requirement for drivers to carry the documents together.

This communication serves to reaffirm that, in accordance with Article 6.10(3) of the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology, driving licences issued by the Republic of Zimbabwe shall be valid for the driving of any vehicle for which they were issued in all SADC Member States.

Member States are therefore respectfully requested to note the contents of this communiqué; disseminate the information to all enforcement officials operating within their jurisdictions; and ensure consistent implementation of the SADC Protocol provisions relating to mutual recognition of driving licences.

The effective application of these measures will significantly reduce delays for cross border operators and enhance the smooth flow of cross-border transport between our respective countries


Eng. J. P Makumbe

Secretary for Transport and Infrastructural Development

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT
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14 JUL 2026

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