



REPORT ON 'ROAD SAFETY THROUGH SELF-TRANSFORMATION'

The BKWSU has a General Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), a Consultative Status with the UNICEF of the United Nations and it is an affiliated member of the United Nations Department of Public Information. The BKWSU has always contributed to these bodies of the United Nations by bringing an ethical and spiritual touch to various projects such as, Million Minutes of Peace Appeal, Global Cooperation for a better world, Sharing our Values for a better world, and others.



And now, in the context of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011 - 2020), the BKWSU in Mauritius has implemented a project entitled ***Road Safety through Self-Transformation***. Road Safety, in Mauritius, has become a major issue due to the growing number of vehicles on our road

networks. Road accidents are increasingly causing death, injuries and trauma to many. Authorities are doing their best to cope with this situation but accidents and fatalities remain on the rise. With a view to sensitising road users, the BKWSU has implemented the *Road Safety through Self-Transformation* project, thus putting the onus on knowing and understanding oneself in the exercise of accident prevention on the roads.



Staff of Eastern Stone Crusher at Laventure

It started as a pilot project at the Eastern Stone Crusher at Laventure, where drivers showed a keen interest. The project was brought to the attention of the Mauritian Public at large during the UN Global Road Safety Week (6 - 12 May 2013), through awareness campaigns in different parts of the island. This was done in collaboration with the Special Road Safety Unit of the Prime Minister's Office and other stakeholders.



Stakeholders at the Municipal Council of Port-Louis

The project was presented in the capital city of Mauritius, Port Louis at the Municipal Council Hall through a press conference in the presence of the Lord Mayor, the Prime Minister's Adviser on Road Safety and other stakeholders. Our representative,

Mr P K Jagutpal, Project Coordinator explained all details through a PowerPoint presentation. The press conference aimed at sensitising the nation about the Road Safety Week and the initiative of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University to make roads safer through spiritual skills and self-transformation.

Newspapers, television, banners, flyers, posters and charts were also used to inform the public about the whereabouts of the Project. The project took place from 6 - 12 May 2013 as follows:

■ 6th May 2013 - Launching Ceremony



Candle Lighting ceremony in Silence in memory of victims of road accidents at the Municipal Town-Hall Curepipe, in the presence of Sister Geeta, Coordinator of BKWSU in the South , Mr Ben Buntipilly, Special Adviser on Road Safety matters to the Prime Minister on her left, Mr Fazil Maudarbaccus, the transport Manager on her right and others

- A programme was organised at the Municipal Town-Hall of Curepipe. A few eminent personalities were present, namely Police Inspector Doomun from the Traffic branch of Police Force, Mr Fazil Maudarbaccus, the transport Manager of the largest bus transport companies in Mauritius, Mr Rajiv Ramlugun of Omnicane Company, Mr Shekar Dewoo, an ex-Mayor of the Town, and others.

The programme comprised speeches by Mr R Bissoonauth, Municipal Counsellor of Curepipe, Mr Ben Buntipilly, Special Adviser on Road Safety

matters to the Prime Minister. This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation by Brother Pradeep Jagutpal, Project Coordinator of Brahma Kumaris on how to reduce accidents through self-control.



Audience in the Town Hall

Sis Lata explaining road safety charts to students, assisted by their teachers



Upper primary students reading the self-explanatory charts

The presentation was followed by an exhibition. 20 giant charts were displayed. The charts which was well illustrated, explained in detail the following points:

- Road Safety

- Pedestrian Safety
- Causes of Accident
- Damages
- Stress affects
- Effects of Stress on Behaviour
- Safety Skills
- Spiritual Skills
- Controlling Traffic of Thoughts
- Eye Contacts
- Detached Observer
- Shield of Positive Thoughts
- Values
- Anatomy of Inner Self
- Overcoming Road Rage
- Safe Speeds
- Silence Power
- Steps of Meditation
- Meditation
- Pledge

At the end of the programme the invitees were requested to fill in a pledge form where they undertook the following promises:

- I Value Life, I will wear a helmet
- I Embrace Life, I will fasten my seat belt
- I Respect Life, I will follow traffic rules.
- I Appreciate Life, I will be peaceful when I face challenges or traffic during travel.
- I Celebrate Life, I will co-operate with co-passengers.
- I Love Life, I will keep myself free from smoking and drinking; will maintain concentration and dignity.
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Signing of Pledge by Primary and Secondary Students

They were requested to keep a coupon of the pledge to remind them of the promise they had undertaken to make roads safer and they were handed over with a thank you card and pledge card as a token.

- **7th May 2013 - Radio and TV programmes**



Explanation of Charts

Signing of Pledge

- The exhibition continued at the Municipal town hall of Curepipe. Many sisters and brothers from Brahma Kumaris were present to explain to the public about the information on the giant charts. Again, the public were requested to sign the pledge and which they did wholeheartedly.

- TV programme

The following resource persons constituted the round table organised by the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC). Mr Pradeep Jagutpal, Project Coordinator BKWSU, Mr Ben Buntipilly, Special Adviser on Road Safety to the Prime Minister, Mr Perimadelon, Representative of the

Police Force and

Ms Regine Mamet, Counsellor, Clinique Fortis Darne

- *Radio Programme*

In the afternoon, Mr Pradeep Jagutpal was the chief guest on Top Fm Radio where a programme was broadcast live and where the public could ask questions. This programme too was a success.

- **8th May 2013** - The Awareness Programme was presented at the United Bus Service (UBS).



Drivers and Conductors of the UBS during the Presentation

- 9th May 2013 - Campaign in the village of Flacq



Candle Lighting ceremony

The same programme on Road Safety through self-transformation was repeated at the Village of Flacq. This programme was done in collaboration with Eastern Stone Crusher Ltd and the Flacq District Council. The function was graced by the President of the District Council of Flacq, Mr Teeruthraj Hurdoyal. After the function, the same exhibition was repeated and on that occasion, students from many schools and colleges visited the exhibition. This exercise of filling in the pledge form was repeated as well.

- Live programme on Cool Fm Radio was also broadcast about the project presented by the Project Coordinator
- The Awareness programme was presented at Rotary Club of Curepipe



President of Rotary Club (in the Centre)

- 11th May 2013 - Campaign in the south of Mauritius



Moments of Silence in memory of victims of road accidents

The Awareness programme cum Open Day/Exhibition was held in the South in collaboration with Omnicane Foundation and L'Escalier Village Council at L'Escalier Village Hall. Dr the Hon Abu Kasenally, Minister of Housing and Lands,

Hon Tassarajen Pillay Chedumbrum, Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Hon M Peetumber, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly,

Mr Ben Buntipilly, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ravin Juggernaut, Chairman Savanne District Council, Mr Jacques M d'Unienville, CEO of Omnicane Group,

Mr Iswar Charitur, Senior Advisor to the Vice-Prime Minister & Minister of

Finance & BK Geeta, Coordinator of BKWSU in the South were present at the function. It was then followed by the opening of the Exhibition.



Opening by Dr the Hon Abu Kasenally, Minister of Housing and Lands and other eminent personalities

In all the three grand functions, namely in the Municipal Town Hall of Curepipe, at Flacq and in L'Escalier Village Hall, there was a candle lighting ceremony by the eminent personalities present in memory of those who lost their lives in the tragic accident which occurred on Friday 03 May 2013. To depict the project 'Road Safety through self-transformation', a song was presented by the Celestial Artists Association in our local language 'kreol'.



Song by Artists of the Celestial Artists Association

At the end of the week, we took note of the impact of this exercise. Many private and public concerns, colleges and socio-cultural groups requested that the programme be presented to their staff, members and students.



Mr Jacques M d'Unienville, CEO of Omnicane Group signing Road Safety Pledge



Dr the Hon Abu Kasenally, Minister of Housing and Lands signing Road Safety Pledge



Eminent Guests: *(From right)* Mr Ben Buntipilly, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister, Hon Tassarajen Pillay Chedumbrum, Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Dr the Hon Abu Kasenally, Minister of Housing and Lands,

Hon M Peetumber, Deputy Speaker, National Assembly, Mr Jacques M d'Unienville, CEO of Omnicane Group, & BK Geeta, Coordinator of BKWSU in the South.



Dr the Hon Abu Kasenally addressing the audience