

December 31,2019

## New Year Road Safety Message from LTA.

As we approach the dying hours of 2019 its worth reflecting on the year in relation to road safety. 63 Fijians lost their lives on the Roads in 2019. **One fatality on our Roads is One Too Many.**

The main causes are listed in the table below in rank order.

Cause	Responsibility	Comment
Speeding	Individual Driver	Driver Behaviour
Careless Driving	Individual Driver	Driver Behaviour
Pedestrian at Fault	Individual Pedestrian and Driver	Pedestrian and Driver Behaviour - if the driver had driven defensively the incident would not have occurred
Driver Fatigue	Individual Driver	Driver Behaviour
Dangerous Driving	Individual Driver	Driver Behaviour
Improper Overtaking	Individual Driver	Driver Behaviour
Driving under the influence of Alcohol	Individual Driver	Driver Behaviour
Parental Neglect	Parent Responsible	Parent Irresponsible
Pedestrian under the influence of Alcohol	Individual Pedestrian and Driver	Pedestrian and Driver behaviour - if the driver had driven defensively the incident would not have occurred
Defective Tyres	Vehicle Owner	The vehicle owner has a responsibility to maintain their vehicle in a fully roadworthy condition at all times

In addition during the year there were 3 hit and run incidents which led to fatalities. The Fiji Police did sterling work in apprehending these people. All were driving without valid licences.

When the statistics for 2019 are analysed Driver and Pedestrian behaviour are the main issues that need to be addressed.

The four Agencies that have responsibility for Road Safety Fiji Police;Fiji Roads Authority;Accident Compensation Commission of Fiji and Land Transport Authority have been working co-operatively and positively to improve Road Safety and will continue to do so in 2020.

Setting aside the impact on the Fijian community at the loss of life and injuries,the impact on the Fijian Economy is huge through the costs to taxpayers of:

Pain and suffering experienced by the injured;

- Medical, ambulance and rehabilitation cost;
- Long term care costs;

- Loss of labour in the work place;
- Loss of labour in the household;
- Reduced quality of life;
- Legal disputation costs;
- Workplace disruption;
- Funeral cost;
- Coroners court costs.

All of the above has an impact on the community, individuals, employers and hospitals from a financial and resource standpoint.

In 2020 driver and pedestrian behaviour needs to change to make the difference that we all desire on our Roads. Help deliver that by doing your bit for Fiji.

This Authority will continue to work to ensure that our focus is steadfastly on “Steering Fiji Safely”.

**-End-**



**Samuel Simpson**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Contact us on Tel: 339 2166 or Toll Free: 0800 334 2886**

**Email: [help@lta.com.fj](mailto:help@lta.com.fj) or Visit our website: [www.lta.com.fj](http://www.lta.com.fj)**