



Office of the Executive Director

PRESS STATEMENT – 13th May 2024.
For Immediate Release

PUBLIC SAFETY ALERT TO THE MOSI-OA-TUNYA/VICTORIA FALLS WORLD HERITAGE SITE AND WATERFALLS VISITORS

The National Heritage Conservation Commission (NHCC) would like to caution the general public seeking to visit the Mosi-Oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls World Heritage Site and all other waterfalls in the country.

The Commission prioritizes safety and as such we want to caution all visitors to our sites including the Mosi-Oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls World Heritage Site to observe safety rules as cautioned on the signage at these sites.

Lately, the Commission has observed with dismay risky social media **CHALLENGE** posts of clients visiting the Victoria Falls perching on the stone pillars or wooden barricades at the edge of the gorge unconscious of their fragility. This risky and careless trend is extremely dangerous and could lead to serious injury or death of not only the perpetrators but innocent bystanders as well.

The Commission endeavors to make the waterfall more accessible and appreciated even on social media platforms. However, these dangerous stunts we are witnessing compromise the safety, reputation and purpose of the beloved tourism destination.

It is in everyone's interest to adhere to safety rules. Any incident that occurs at the site has a ripple effect that can not only harm the tourism industry but even the livelihoods of the countless people that dependent on the waterfalls either directly or indirectly.

It is important for the public to know that the barricades at the Mosi-Oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls are **NOT** to be climbed on, sat on or leaned on. They serve as a border to keep visitors from wandering past the advised safety point. **DO NOT TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS** based on social media stunt challenges.

Our safety reminder to all our beloved heritage site visitors includes, among others:

- Do not get too close to slippery slopes and/or cliff edges.
- Do not go beyond barricades;
- Do not climb, lean, or sit on barricades for photoshoots or any other purpose;
- Do not swim;
- Do not take shortcuts or go off-trail, and
- Do not blatantly ignore (or at least the risks and consequences called out by) the warning signs and railings/barricades.

Anyone found infringing these safety rules and any other shall be at the mercy of applicable relevant law(s).

ENDS//

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maxwell Zulu".

Maxwell Zulu

Acting Information and Public Relations Manager – 0977 880 137