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Rössing Driver Competition focuses on *Safe Driving Always First!*

A Driver Competition hosted by Rössing is a renewed landmark in its history to promote road safety.

“After an absence of many years since the early 1990s we at Rössing have now again taken up an active role in the promotion of safe and competent driving through a Driver Competition”, said Rössing’s General Manager Operations, Willem van Rooyen on Saturday at the prize-giving event in Swakopmund.

He said: “The aim of the Driver Competition is to create awareness and promote safe driving among the general public, and by demonstrating the driving skills of the participants here today we want to urge all drivers to live by ***Safe Driving Always First.***”

Relating to the many accidents he said that the World Health Organisation’s campaign to improve road safety all over the world indicates that worldwide about 1.2 million people are killed every year in traffic accidents, which is about 3 200 deaths per day, while a further 50 million people are suffering serious injury or permanent disability.

He said that Rössing is committed to support safe driving initiatives and during the upcoming holiday season the company is supporting the ***Together We Care*** responsible driver campaign as well as the ***International SOS Coastal Safety Initiative.***

“Let us all strive to survive as long as possible. Can you imagine travelling on Namibia’s roads when we have zero accidents, or even a significantly reduced risk, because all drivers live by ***Safe Driving Always First.***”

Mr Van Rooyen said that Rössing plans to host the event regularly in partnership with industries supporting the ***Safe Driving Always First*** campaign. This year’s event was supported by Scania South Africa and Truck Namibia with prize sponsorships from BP Namibia, Wesbank Transport, Unitrans, Quality Tyres, Tyres 2000, Cranes Unlimited, Komatsu, TransNamib, Arandis Services, KB Training, Bearing Man Walvis Bay and Autohaus.

The driver competition attracted a number of entries from Rössing, Wesbank Transport, TransNamib and the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) with 11 drivers going through the three sections of the competition namely a written K53 theory test, a pre-trip inspection and a track test.

The drivers participated in either the bus or the truck category with the driver evaluations done by two judges from Scania South Africa.

Directors: C.V. Kauraisa (Chairman), M.D. Leech (Managing Director), E.H.T. Angula, A. Arabmazar, P.S. Chiaro, F Fredericks, R. R. Hoveka, J.S. Kirkpatrick, J.S. Louw (alt. G.P. Louw), A.H. Mahnama (alt. A. H. Behzadan), V.B. Moll, A. Mudhika, D.J. Salisbury, M.S. Travis

The combined scores of each driver in the three sections made up the first, second and third places in both the bus and truck categories. First places received N\$6000, second places N\$4000 and third places N\$2000, as well as various other prizes from the sponsors.

Results:

Truck 1st Sponsored by BP Namibia: Edmund Opperman, TransNamib
 Truck 2nd Sponsored by Wesbank Transport & Unitrans: Sivil Linyondi, TransNamib
 Truck 3rd Sponsored by Quality Tyres: Nikanor Amakali, TransNamib

Bus 1st Sponsored by Tyres 2000: Schalk Jordaan, Rössing
 Bus 2nd Sponsored by Cranes Unlimited & Komatsu: Immanuel Gariseb, TransNamib
 Bus 3rd Sponsored by TransNamib: David Solomons, NIMT

Best results in K53 theory test Sponsored by Bearing Man: Edmund Opperman, TransNamib



Winners in the bus category are 1st Schalk Jordaan (centre) from Rössing, 2nd Immanuel Gariseb (left) from TransNamib and in 3rd place David Solomons (right) from the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT).



Winners in the truck category are 1st Edmund Opperman (centre) from TransNamib, 2nd Sivil Linyondi (left) TransNamib and in third place Nikanor Amakali (right) also from TransNamib.



The judges checking on the accuracy with which a truck driver was able to stop over a bulls eye sign placed on the ground.



Truck drivers had to indicate from the driver position how far the judges should open the gate (two white drums) to allow just enough space for the truck to drive through. The least wasted space scored the most points.



A driver in the bus category manoeuvring the bus in a straight line so that the double left rear wheels could pass between two lines of tennis balls without touching one.



A bus driver going through the serpentine with the Scania South Africa judges checking on the participant's driving skills.



One of the participants doing a pre-trip inspection of the truck and points were allocated for spotting the safety hazards.