From the Chernobyl nuclear disaster to the Covid-19 pandemic: Redefining the new organisational safety culture in the railways.

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Introduction

- **Covid-19 has changed the old ways of doing things in organisations including: Households, faith-based organisations, workplaces and governments.**

Safety Culture Concept Evolution

- **1986 – Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine**

- **1988–Clapham Junction railway accident in London(UK)**

- **1988- Piper Alpha accident in the oil and gas industry in Scotland (UK)**

Safety Culture Defined

- "Safety culture is the product of individual and group values, attitudes, competencies and patterns of behavior that determine the commitment to, and the style and proficiency of an organisation's health and safety programmes." (ACSNI, 1993)

Characteristics of an organisational safety culture

- **Organisations with a positive safety culture are characterized by communications founded on mutual trust, by shared perceptions of the importance of safety by confidence in the efficiency of preventative measures.**

Statement of the problem

- **The European Union Agency of Railways developed an assessment tool in 2017 to foster the development of a positive safety culture across European railways.**

- **EU directive compels all European railways to adopt a European Safety Management System (SMS).**

- **The African continent does not have a railway agency similar to the European Union Agency of Railways to foster the development of a safety culture across the African railways.**

- **The SADC Protocol on transport and meteorology does address the development of an assessment tool to measure safety culture.**

- **The Chernobyl definition of safety should be revisited.**

- **Covid-19 has redefined organisational culture.**

The European Railway Safety Culture Model
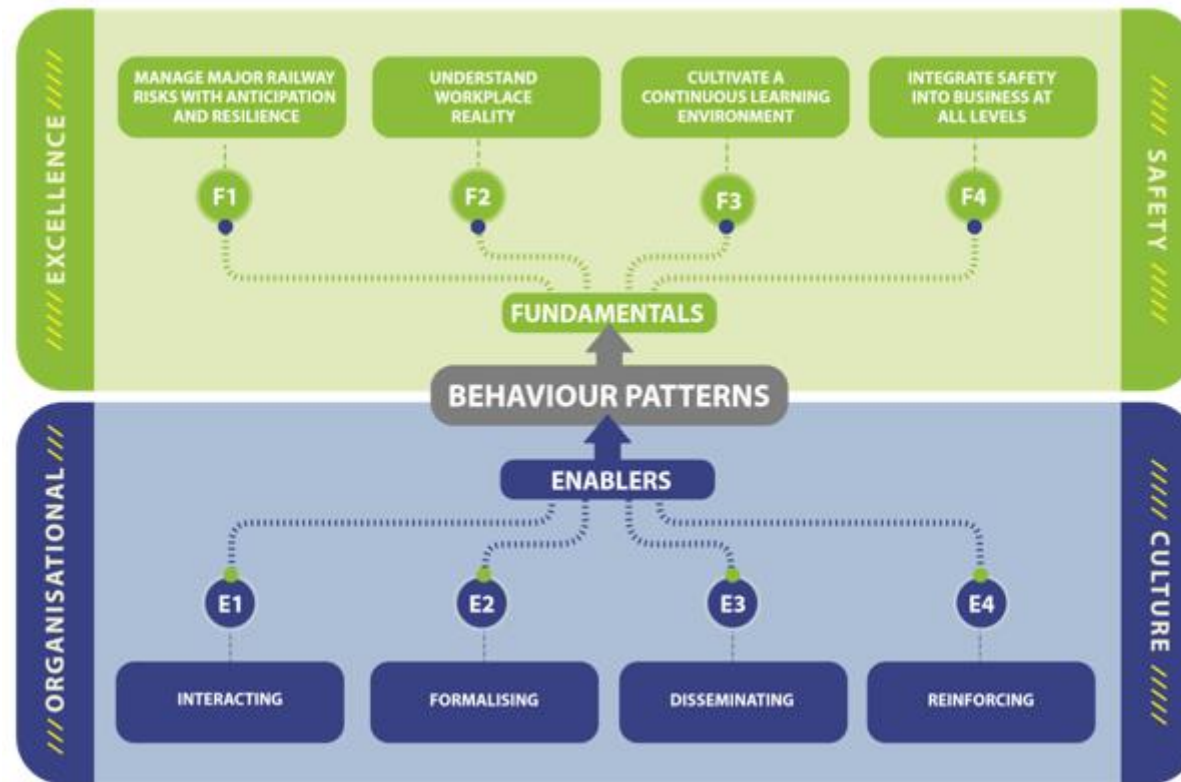
Covid-19 and safety culture

- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) decides on the global health and safety culture;**
- **The WHO message is cascaded to national states;**
- **The president and his cabinet communicate the message to the nation;**
- **Organisations tailor their plans according to the national message;**
- **National public health non pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) and measures such as; masking up, social distancing and hand sanitising;**
- **National protocols such as the quota system on social gatherings;**
- **Presidential addresses (i.e. dubbed as "family meetings"); and**
- **Covid 19 mitigation measures such as Office Rotation Schedules**

The authors redefine Safety culture as

"A well nurtured global, national, and an organisational atmosphere where safety and health is understood to be and is accepted as the number one priority ."

Thank you