



REMARKS DELIVERED BY DR. JOVIN MWEMEZI, ON BEHALF OF DR KAMUGISHA KAZAURA, INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTOR DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING PROJECT IN UGANDA ON 6 JULY, 2017, KAMPALA

- **Hon. Aggrey Henry Bagiire, Minister of State for Transport from the Ministry of Works and Transport**
- **Hon Eng. Simon D'Ujanga, Minister of State for Energy from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development**
- **Mrs Sarah Mann, The British Deputy High Commissioner to Uganda,**
- **Mr Christian Schnurre, Country Director for GIZ**
- **Mr Florentin de Loppinot, Chairman of SWRW and MD of Total**
- **Distinguished Delegates**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is a great pleasure for me to take part in this forum that has brought together national and international stakeholders from both the government and private sectors to witness the launch of the Professional Driver Training Project Uganda. I wish to thank the organizers for involving us, EAC.

I wish to appreciate the Government of Uganda, GIZ, Safe Way Right Way, Transaid, the Transport and Logistics Associations in Uganda, the private sector and indeed all stakeholders for making this project a reality. This project will not only empower our youths with appropriate skills to face the challenges of the labour market but will also address the industry needs for professional drivers. Likewise, the training project will go a long way in making road transport operations in our region safer, secure, efficient and cost effective.

Distinguished Delegates,

The EAC places great importance on transport facilitation in general and road safety in particular. A study on Transport Facilitation in the EAC (BICO Report), recommended for implementation of harmonized standards in many areas including vehicle load control, vehicle registration and licensing and driver training and testing, among others. Following that recommendation, the EAC Secretariat developed the EAC Standardised Curriculum for Drivers of Large Commercial Vehicle for both passengers and freight with support from TMEA. The drivers' curriculum was approved for implementation by the council of Ministers in September 2016. A legal framework is now being developed to support the implementation of the standardized curriculum in all EAC countries to ensure that all drivers of large commercial vehicles are trained to the same standards. It gives me a great pleasure to witness the launch of training based on that curriculum and being delivered by no other than

Transaid which developed the regional curriculum. This gives us the assurance of quality delivery of the program.

Distinguished delegates

Time and again studies on road fatalities continue to indicate that between 75-85 percent of road fatalities are attributable to human factors. It is therefore not only timely but also imperative that interventions aimed at the human element will address the road safety challenge to the core. The professional driver training being launched today is really a strategic intervention.

No matter how technologically advanced vehicles are, except for AGVs, the man behind the wheel, the driver, will always be the critical success factor for attaining safer and efficient road transport. As such, joint efforts are required to ensure that the professional training being launched today covers more drivers not only in Uganda but across the entire East African Region.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to appreciate the involvement of the private sector in delivery of this training program and would like to take this opportunity to invite more stakeholders to join the program so that, together, we can replicate this initiative across the region.

I wish the Professional Driver Training Project in Uganda a great success.

I thank you for your attention.