

The launch of the Professional Driver

Training – Uganda Project

at

KCCA Grounds (Lugogo)

(6th July 2017)

Remarks by

Mr. Christian Schnurre

GLZ Country Director - Uganda

Honourable Minister of State for Energy, Simon D'Ujanga

Her Excellency, the Deputy British High Commissioner, Sarah Mann

Her Excellency the Norwegian Ambassador, Susan Eckey (not confirmed)

Representatives of the private sector,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All protocol observed

It is my pleasure to be here today, at the launch of the Professional Driver Training – Uganda Project. We have gathered here to mark a fresh start for driver training in Uganda. This project will see up to 800 people trained, and lead to employment of at least 600 Ugandans. It will also have a big impact on road safety in this country, as professionally skilled drivers will be much less likely to be involved in an accident.

Before I proceed, allow me to give you a quick introduction to GIZ.

GIZ is not a donor, we are an implementing agency. We implement development projects on behalf of development partners such as the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development - BMZ, the British government – DFID and the European Union. In Uganda, GIZ is active in many fields such as: Water & Sanitation, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and of course, Employment Promotion.

The GIZ E4D/SOGA – Employment and Skills for Eastern Africa Initiative, is in fact behind this Professional Driver Training - Uganda Project.

The E4D/SOGA initiative is co-funded by the British, Norwegian and German Governments. It is an enterprise and skills development initiative which works to bring, in total, 8,000 people into employment.

Besides this driver training project, we have several other initiatives contributing towards the overall goal. For example one skilling project we are implementing in Hoima is enhancing the employability of youth in the Albertine Graben. We implement it in partnership with St Simon's Vocational Institute and TASC/Q-Sourcing. We also work with Voluntary services Overseas – VSO, to improve access to jobs in Oil and Gas and related sectors, and to increase income for up to 2,000 men, women and young people in Uganda.

We, as GIZ, put special emphasis on employment creation and skills development due to current and anticipated infrastructure development projects in Ugandan sectors, including the oil and gas sector which is going into construction phase soon. There will be many job opportunities for plumbers, electricians, builders, welders and truck drivers, among others. These occupations are not only much in demand, but also very transferable to other sectors if need be.

To prepare the labour market and future employees for this potential, the E4D/SOGA initiative has partnered with the Government of Uganda, private sector companies and non-governmental organizations: the overall goal being to build a skilled national workforce in Uganda.

That said, the Professional Driver Training - Uganda Project contributes towards E4D/SOGA's goal of skilling the Ugandan work force, through professional training of driving instructors and truck drivers.

For this Project, GIZ is partnering with **Transaid**, a UK based international development organization and **Safeway Rightway** a Ugandan NGO, backed by numerous international private sector companies such as Bolloré, TOTAL, Tullow Oil, CNOOC and LaFarge/Hima Cement. We will hear from these partners later on.

The project is a model example of how development cooperation will have to work in the future to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. It has been already been seen that donor funding alone will not suffice if we are to achieve these ambitious, jointly set goals. That is why I am extremely happy that private sector investments are pledged for this project in the form of land, training trucks, buildings and resources. This form of public-private partnership will be key in combatting many development challenges in Uganda.

As GIZ, we are convinced that we can make a positive impact in the Ugandan economy with this project.

Let me conclude by wishing the Professional Driver Training – Uganda project and its partners great success and enjoyable launch event.

Thank you very much.