

SPEECH AT THE LAUNCH OF
THE PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING PROJECT UGANDA
AT
KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY AUTHORITY GROUNDS LUGOGO THURSDAY 6TH JULY 2017
BY
AGGREY HENRY BAGIIRE, MP
HON. MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT)

The Hon. Minister of State for Energy

The Deputy British High Commissioner to Uganda

The Country Director GIZ

The Managing Director Total Uganda

The Chairperson National Logistics Platform

The Representative of the East African Community Secretariat

Chairpersons and Members of TLB and NRSC

Senior Government officials present

Safe Way Right Way and all the Partner Companies

The Project Manager Transaid

The Press

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is my honour today to preside over the launch of the **Professional Driver Training Project Uganda**. I wish to particularly thank GIZ, DFID and NORAD for funding this Project and make it a reality to address road safety challenges in Uganda.
2. As you may be aware, last year 2016, about 3,503 persons were killed in road crashes while 10,981 were seriously injured. According to the Annual Traffic Police Reports, human factors or road user behaviours accounted for 81% of the total road crashes.
3. Uganda being a member of the United Nations, is a signatory to the UN General Assembly Resolution of 10 May 2010, that proclaims the period 2011–2020 as the **Decade of Action for Road Safety**; with a goal to stabilize and reduce the forecast level of road traffic fatalities by 50% around the world by increasing activities conducted at National, Regional and Global levels. The Action is premised on five (5) Pillars namely: Road Safety Management, Safer Roads and Mobility, Safer Vehicles, **Safer Road Users**, and Post-Crash Care.
4. Ladies and Gentlemen, for Uganda to achieve this target there is need for a multi-sectoral approach to influence road user behaviours especially for our drivers on the road. Driving competence and knowledge is a key foundation on road safety that demonstrates the driver's abilities to use the road. A well -structured driver training and testing regime ensures that this knowledge and skills are acquired before road use.
5. Distinguished guests, driving of Heavy Goods Vehicles and Passenger Service vehicles require special skills largely due to their size and pay volume/load. I am aware that, only two driving schools are registered to provide professional training for drivers of commercial heavy goods vehicles and buses. This is due to the fact that investment in such training facilities, equipment and skilling Instructors is a capital-intensive venture by all standards. I am therefore happy to welcome this project and I must thank Safe Way Right Way and their partners for choosing to invest in this timely service.
6. There is no better opportunity for the highly skilled drivers of Commercial vehicles than NOW. As we continue to position ourselves in the region as a logistics distribution hub

and in anticipation of the impending oil production, we should be prepared with skilled drivers ready to take advantage of these opportunities.

7. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is high time that driving of Commercial Vehicles in Uganda became a Profession just like elsewhere in the world. We should therefore adopt a standard curriculum that is regionally and Internationally recognized.
8. I am happy to learn that this Project has been tailored to the East African Community (EAC) Driver Training Curriculum for Heavy Goods Vehicles and Buses as a training guide as we await the EAC legal framework for its full implementation. This will ensure that our drivers are competitive and recognized within the region and possibly internationally. I further urge you to make use of the Training Manuals for medium and heavy goods vehicles and buses developed by my Ministry in line with the EAC Driver Training Curriculum for Heavy Goods Vehicles and Buses.
9. Distinguished Guests, I would like to assure Safeway Right Way that the Government of Uganda and my Ministry in particular will give you within its means the support you deserve for this project. This project demonstrates the much needed partnership between Government and the private Sector to provide services to the people as a common good of improving driver training in Uganda.
10. I have also been informed that Instructors from selected driving schools have been trained while others are still undergoing training. I hope that these will quickly disseminate the knowledge they receive to their various trainees in the driving schools.
11. Ladies and Gentlemen, My Ministry has initiated plans to review and amend the current Traffic and Road Safety Act, 1998. Through this amendment, Government shall put in place and enforce a comprehensive driver and testing regime, including adopting groupings of vehicles for driver licences harmonized in order to have a driving regime with our partner states in the EAC Region.
12. This Project which is inline with Government interventions, will greatly improve our scorecard on the Fourth Pillar of Road Safety – **Safer Road Users**.

13. Distinguished Guests, I once again thank the funders of the Project, the Project Team at Safe Way Right Way and my Technical Staff from the Ministry of Works and Transport. I wish to assure you of Government support to ensure that this project achieves its desired objectives.

14. IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR PLEASURE AND HONOUR TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING PROJECT UGANDA

THANK YOU

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.