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MORE JOBS FOR QUALIFIED COMMERCIAL DRIVERS AND SAFER ROADS FOR ALL

At least 12 driver trainers and 800 drivers of Large Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) are set to receive training in accordance with the East African Community (EAC) Standardised Curriculum for Drivers of Large Commercial Vehicles. This was announced during the launch of the Professional Driver Training – Uganda project (PDT-U), which took place at KCCA football grounds on Thursday 6th of July 2017.

The PDT-U project is building skills of local trainers who in turn will train 800 drivers to a level that meets regional standards. The training is tailor-made for industry needs and will surpass all the currently available training in Uganda in quality and relevance. The standardised training seeks to enhance employability of drivers of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and Passenger Service Vehicle (PSVs), within the transport and logistics sector. This means that PDT-U can offer promising opportunities for drivers and truck drivers that are looking for a career in industry.

The project is implemented by GIZ E4D/SOGA - Employment and Skills for Eastern Africa, Safe Way Right Way (SWRW) and Transaid, with support from industry partners, and in partnership with the Government of Uganda. It is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

The project was initiated in response to an anticipated high and increasing demand for qualified commercial drivers. In the coming years, over one thousand new drivers will be hired by transport and logistics companies serving the upcoming Oil and Gas infrastructure projects and other large scale investments in the country. Yet many professional drivers of large vehicles (trucks) possess little adequate driving skills required for these upcoming jobs. The currently available driver training hardly meets internationally recognised standards demanded by most large international transporter companies. Furthermore, according to the World Health Organization's Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015, road accidents claim an estimated 10,280 lives in Uganda annually. This calls for improved training of drivers, including drivers of large commercial vehicles, in a bid to improve road safety.

To improve driving skills in the country, Safe Way Right Way under PDT-U has established a new training facility in Mukono district. The facility offers theoretic and practical training to drivers of HGV and PSV vehicles. Three existing local driving schools are also receiving support to strengthen and maintain the quality of their training.

During the launch event, the Minister of State for Energy – Hon. Simon D'Ujanga and the Minister of State for Transport – Hon. Aggrey Henry Bagiire, conducted a symbolic flagging off of the training vehicle. Guests were also treated to a demonstration of the skills acquired by a pair of driver trainers; Deo Kahiigwa and Andrew Ssejjemba. The two demonstrated a number of advanced truck manoeuvres and the teaching techniques that will be applied during the programme.

Among those present at the event were Mrs. Sarah Mann - The British Deputy High Commissioner to Uganda, diplomatic representatives of French, German and Norwegian embassies, Mr. Christian Schnurre - Country Director, GIZ Uganda, Mrs. Merian Sebunya - Chairperson of National Logistics Platform and Dr. Jovin Mwemezi - Corridor Development Advisor, East African Community. Representatives from Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Works and Transport, various industry associations and international transport and logistics companies were also in attendance.

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About GIZ E4D/SOGA

The E4D/SOGA - Employment and Skills for Eastern Africa initiative is an innovative public-private partnership with activities in Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda. The initiative is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). E4D/SOGA operates under the umbrella of BMZ's regional Employment for Sustainable Development in Africa (E4D) programme.

In Uganda, the initiative is implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD). Activities are aligned with the objectives of the National Workforce Skills Development Strategy and Plan, spearheaded by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. The overall objective of the SOGA initiative is to ensure that Women, men and young people in East Africa gain employment and economic opportunities in the natural resources and infrastructure supply chain.

About Safe Way Right Way

Safe Way Right Way (SWRW) is a registered NGO comprising several corporate companies working together to leverage resources and best practice to implement road safety interventions. SWRW was a result of collaboration between the World Bank's "Global Road Safety Partnerships" and Total SA to improve road safety on Africa's economically critical corridors. The collaboration is called the "African Road Safety Corridors Initiative" (ARSCI).

Currently SWRW is founded and funded by a number of private sector companies including Bollore Logistics, CNOOC, Hima Cement Limited, Total Exploration & Production, Total Uganda Limited, Toyota Uganda Limited, Schlumberger Oilfields Eastern Limited and Tullow Oil. The organizations actions are informed by the UN Decade of Action Road Safety Pillars and in country baseline surveys.

About Transaid

Transaid is UK based NGO that transforms lives through safe, available, and sustainable transport. Founded by Save the Children, The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), and its Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, the international development organisation shares 26 years' worth of expertise in 23 countries with partners and governments – empowering people to build the skills they need to transform their own lives. It focuses on professional driver training, transport management systems, and rural access to transport, to solve two of the biggest transport challenges in economically developing countries.

Transaid has been building the capacity of the transport and logistics sector across the East Africa since 2008. The PDTU will benefit from the experiences that the organisation has gained through collaboration with training institutions in Zambia and Tanzania as well as from training initiatives delivered previously in Uganda and Malawi. Transaid has also worked with government road safety curriculum for drivers of large commercial vehicles.