



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **SENSITIZATION AND REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS TO COMMENCE**

**Kampala, Uganda** – The Professional Driver Training Uganda (PDTU) project has kicked off a campaign to sensitize and register drivers for a programme aimed at improving the quality of training for drivers and driving instructors in Uganda. The PDTU project was launched in July 2017 and has so far trained 12 driver trainers. The project now aims to register 800 drivers in professional driving of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) and Passenger Service Vehicles (PSVs).

The training, formulated according to the East African Curriculum for HGVs and PSVs, will give professional drivers additional skills to improve their employability across the region and in turn, improve their general standard of living. GIZ E4D/SOGA, Transaid and Safe Way Right Way are implementing the project, with support from development and industry partners, and in partnership with the Government of Uganda.

“I call upon eligible Ugandans to apply to the project for the training, because Ugandans will be given priority in the recruitment of drivers for projects in various sectors, in line with the National Content Policy and Plan,” said Neil Rettie, Transaid Road Safety Project Manager.

Today’s sensitization and registration exercise was held at the Old Taxi Park in Kampala, with local musician, Maro singing the campaign’s signature song, “Linya Class”. The song calls on drivers to take the step to get better jobs and improve their standards of living. Targeted drivers also received information materials as well as an offer of a 50 per cent fees discount for the first 100 to register.

Similar exercises will take place in different parts of the country over the coming months and eligible drivers who register will receive training at a facility in Mukono district, run by Safe Way Right Way.

“We put special emphasis on employment creation and skills development due to current and anticipated infrastructure development projects, including the oil and gas sector,” said GIZ Country Director Christian, Schnurre. “This project will lead to employment of at least 600 Ugandans and also have a big impact on road safety in this country.”

According to the Annual Traffic Police Reports, human factors, including lack of professional driving skills, account for 81% of total road crashes in the country. To compound the challenge, although driving of HGVs and PSVs requires special skills, only two driving schools in the country are registered to provide such training.

“Successful professional driver training is intended to lead to increased employment of Ugandan drivers and improved road safety in the country,” said Barbara Mwanje, Chief Executive Officer of Safe Way Right Way.

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