



The Republic of Uganda

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON – "LIFE IS A GIFT"

BY

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6TH DECEMBER 2024

Fellow Ugandans

1. It is yet that time of the year, characterised by heightened travel by all road users across the country to re-unite with family and friends. A season of extreme excitement, merry making and festivities.
2. One of the primary concerns during this season though, is the increased traffic that affects travel times thus influencing road users to speed or engage in reckless road user behaviour, unfortunately impacting negatively on road travel.
3. In the lead up to the festive season, Government is reminding road users to avoid conducting themselves in a manner that exposes and undermines rights of others to safely use the shared road space. This is a call to every road user to exercise caution and vigilance while using the road.
4. During last year's festive season, close to 60 lives were lost in the period from 23rd December 2023 to 1st January 2024. The reported figures for this year January 2024 to end of September 2024, 3,790 lives were lost and more than 12,430 in serious injuries as a result of road traffic crashes or accidents. During this period of 9 months, motorcyclists and pedestrians contribute 64% of the total road traffic crash fatalities.
5. Government however remains firmly committed to reverse this trend through several interventions that are under implementation. I will make a decisive announcement of these commitments early next year 2025.
6. My humble appeal to you fellow Ugandans is that, let this year's festive season be different, no matter how we choose

to spend it. Our combined efforts first as road users can ensure a safer festive season for everyone. We all have a duty to practice responsible behaviour on our roads.

7. I wish to appeal to all road users especially to motorists to observe the following:

- a) Plan your journeys well in advance. Give yourselves adequate time to travel
- b) Avoid drunk driving during the festive season.
- c) Avoid speeding and dangerous driving manoeuvres
- d) Make use of the car seatbelts and child restraint
- e) For the Motor cycle or boda boda riders, wear and fasten properly your standard helmet, have reflector jacket. Carry one passenger and do not overload. Keep the head lights on at all times.
- f) During this rainy season, drivers should be cautious on wet road surfaces to avoid skidding. Avoid driving through flooded road sections as much as possible.
- g) Avoid talking or texting on phone and other forms of distractions while driving.
- h) Make sure that your vehicle is in a sound mechanical condition and roadworthy.
- i) To deal with fatigue take a break every after two hours or 200km of drive
- j) Avoid overloading your vehicle. It affects your vehicle's stability and ability to control it

- k) Every driver should be advised to move with an original or copy of their Driving Licence while driving
 - l) The general public should be vigilant and alert by reporting whoever vandalises the road furniture
8. Passengers should not accept to be transported like logs or cargo, life is too precious to leave it entirely in the hands of your drivers to determine. **Speak up.**
9. **Pedestrians:** You are too vulnerable to carelessly cross or use the road. Cross the road when it is safe for you and avoid using the main carriage way. Always cross at Zebra crossings.
10. Fellow Ugandans in view of the above guidelines, I now direct as follows:
- a) All buses whose journeys are beyond 300km shall not have return journeys within 24 hours. Only buses with valid route charts and valid PSV licences shall be allowed to operate.
 - b) No school bus shall be allowed or any private vehicle that is not authorised by the Ministry to carry passengers for hire shall be allowed to operate.
 - c) All bus drivers shall possess valid Driving Licences and Driver Badges at all times while driving. A photo of the Driver shall be displayed in the bus.
 - d) The Traffic Police to step up enforcement across the country through the festive season with a focus on keeping the road safe.
11. Ministry of Works and Transport pledges to continue working with all stakeholders – Uganda Police Force, Other

Government MDAs, Private Sector, Religious Institutions, Civil Society Organisation (CSOs), Media, Transport Operators, among others during the festive season to spread my message on road safety to the general public and specifically road users. During the festive season the stakeholders intend to carry out:

- a) Public education and road safety awareness campaigns through various platforms, bus parks, taxi parks and check points
- b) Enforcement operations on reckless driving, speeding, driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol, driving without driving licences, riding without helmet and reflector jacket

12. I encourage all road users to take heed of the Campaign messages by all our stakeholders; play their respective part and take responsibility for their own safety and safety of other road users. Road Safety begins with you.

13. **LIFE IS A GIFT** - therefore, guard it jealously. Every death on our roads is tragic and brings with it a trail of trauma and pain.

14. In case of any emergency call **Tel: 0800199099 (Toll free)**

15. I wish you all a joyous and a **safe** festive season of 2024 and prosperous New Year 2025.

THANK YOU
FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Signed:.....

Gen Edward Katumba Wamala

Minister of Works and Transport

6th December 2024