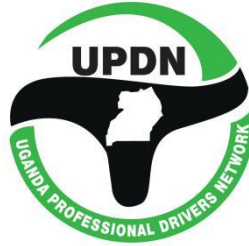


UPDN Commemoration of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims in Uganda
Report 2019



UGANDA PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS' NETWORK (UPDN)

**REPORT ON COMMEMORATION OF WORLD DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS IN UGANDA
17th DECEMBER 2019**



The Hon.Min.Beti Olive Kanya and other leaders participate in candle lighting in memory of those who lost lives in road accidents in Uganda at the Railways square on 17th November, 2019

Global Theme 2019: 'Life is not a car Part'.

Prepared by Jovia.....
Date
Sign.....

Prepared by Ndugu Omongo
Date
Sign.....

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INTRODUCTION:

The day of remembrance of road traffic victims was started in 1993 by World Peace, a United Kingdom charity for road traffic victims. On October 26, 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 60/5 on improving global road safety. The Resolution called for the third Sunday of November each year to be recognized as an annual day for remembrance of road traffic victims. Globally the day for remembrance of road traffic victims is a major advocacy day for road traffic injury prevention.

Public remembrance of the road traffic victims is not for the benefit of the victims to remember what happened to them, but it is a day for public reflection which is an act of recognition. It states to the victims and their families that their humanity is valued and that their loss is our loss and that we share in their suffering.

In Uganda on average, 10 people lose life every day in road traffic crashes. In 2018 alone, Uganda lost 3,689 lives in road traffic crashes equivalent to 57 full buses with seating capacity of 64 persons (*Uganda road safety report, 2018*). In terms of serious injury, the police traffic report recorded 9,539 serious injuries equivalent to 198 people seriously injured on a weekly basis. Ministry of Health report shows that only 11% of those involved in road crashes arrive at hospital aboard an ambulance, leave alone other necessary support such as emergency health care, security and psych-social support.

Most of those killed are young people and in the prime of their lives whose presence and contributions are missed by their families and the country. The impact of such traumatic events are largely felt at family level as families are frequently driven into poverty by the cost of prolonged medical care, loss of a family bread winner or the extra funds needed to care for people disabled by road traffic injuries. At country level, the annual cost of road traffic crashes is estimated at 4.4 trillion representing 5% of the GDP. Despite the extent of this tragedy and the associated extreme human suffering, the issue of road traffic deaths, injury and the suffering of victims has largely been ignored by Government with meager national budget apportioned to it.

Uganda Professional Drivers' Network (UPDN) organized the day for commemoration of road traffic victims in Uganda on November 17, 2019 in partnership with the inter-religious council of Uganda; sponsored by Daily Monitor, Integrated Transport Systems Limited, Graben Logistics Academy, City Ambulance, Bamico Transporters, UDSA, Prestige Driving School and several Drivers Associations' (UPDN); joining the rest of the world in the remembrance of road traffic victims in Uganda. The purpose of the commemoration was to bring to national attention the devastating impact of road deaths and injuries on families and the Economy.

UPDN used the 2019 commemoration to call the Government of Uganda to action and operationalize the National Road Safety Strategy but to also specifically come up with a national post-crash responses strategy to effectively support people affected by road traffic crashes in Uganda. Different participating stakeholders' called upon Government to provide for a universal mechanism for timely emergency care, medical treatment, security, psychological support, and rehabilitation for the injured. Government was also asked to investigate crashes and provide justice to the injured and the bereaved.

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There was a procession of stakeholders led by the Uganda Police band from the city square at 10:00am to the railways ground where we held an inter-denominational service led by the inter-religious council of Uganda for two hours ending by 1:00pm.

Multi-Sectorial stakeholder Involvement:

Prior to the Event day, together with the Inter-Religious council of Uganda; we visited the leadership of the Born Again church, Orthodox and the Mufti. The aim of this activity was to ensure that we mobilized religious leaders (all churches and mosques) to use the week to champion the road safety cause in their different churches and mosques for wide coverage of the required advocacy for this important calendar day. From the Born Again Faith, Apostle Tumwine the P.R.O represented Dr.Serwada while Bishop Lwanga spoke on behalf of the orthodox and finally Deputy Mufti Arafat represented the Mufti to extend their messages to their different followers. We hope to have mobilization of the religious leaders for the following years to start in time under IRCU so as to achieve having all places of worship commemorate this event in the coming year.

SPEECHES:

WHO Representative- Dr.Hafisa Kasule

- ❖ She said 1.2 million people die yearly from road related crasher worldwide.
- ❖ Decade of Action reducing road traffic deaths by 50% by 2020
- ❖ Mentioned the five pillars on the UN agreement that Uganda is member to (safer roads, safer road users, safer vehicles, road safety management and improved post-crash response).
- ❖ Emphasized post-crash response for road traffic victims as an area for Uganda to urgently address and improve on.
- ❖ Talked about human error-seat belts, alcohol and appealed for attitude change



World Health Organizations' Dr.Hasifa Kasule, UPDN-ED and members of Inter religious council of Uganda during a march to the constitutional square

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Government Representative - Minister for Kampala (Office of the President of Uganda)- (Hon.Beti Namisango Kamy)

- ❖ Identified herself as a terrified road user and Victim having lost her elder brother in a road accident and other road users personally known to her
- ❖ She said every person from the President to the fetus in a mother's womb is a potential victim of road accident
- ❖ Emphasized the untimely manner in which the world (country, family and loved ones) loses contributions of victims of road accidents.
- ❖ Survivors go through heavy bills that divert development resources to hospital bills and replacement of damaged items
- ❖ She promised to report the important recommendations to the different actors including cabinet of Ministers.
- ❖ Committed that when Parliament is called to action, they will always play their role on legislation
- ❖ Police should also perform their roles on enforcement-'only road worthy vehicles and road worthy drivers should be allowed on the road'.
- ❖ Called for punitive action on errant drivers such as withdrawing their driving permits as deterrent measures to reducing road accidents associated to recklessness of drivers
- ❖ Recommended that Ministry of Education be involved in Driver Education and emphasized re-introduction of Road Safety Education on the National School Curriculum as it was in the past.



Traffic Police Officers and other stakeholders being addressed by Kampala Minister Beti Namisango Kamy.

Inter-Religious Council of Uganda-

- ❖ There is still hope to save lives through road safety advocacy by institutions like UPDN.
- ❖ Everyone must be ambassadors, from the driver to the policy makers, appealed to road users to show care, compassion and patience while using the roads
- ❖ Called for observance of road traffic rules by road users and mostly importantly the drivers
- ❖ Extended empathies to survivors who are struggling with adjusting to status after road accidents

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Members of inter religious council of Uganda during a march on Day of Remembrance for road traffic victims.

Uganda Traffic Police

- ❖ Stressed Social and Economic impact of road accidents at both family and Government level
- ❖ Sympathized with Traffic officers who face these scenes everyday with limited equipment
- ❖ Said officers have on some occasions ended up as victims while trying to save lives
- ❖ They always improvise to rescue victims because of limitations within the Traffic police force
- ❖ Said major cause remained human error, accounting for over 80% of total accidents
- ❖ Appealed to citizens especially as the country approached festive-this had always been the season for major accidents
- ❖ Said police was committed to performing its role of enforcement
- ❖ Called upon everyone including pedestrians and passengers to take responsibility-‘control a driver’
- ❖ Recommended for a National call Number to report errant drivers for speedy response and action on such drivers before they do more damages on the road.



Uganda Traffic police take lead during the DOR procession

Recommendations

Action	Responsible body	Status
Operationalize the National Road Safety Strategy	Ministry of Transport	In progress
Train and equip the Traffic police to respond with requisite emergency medical assistance to road traffic victims	The Uganda Police, partners, Government agencies	In progress

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with ambulances and first aid assistance not pickups		
Involve Ministry of Education in Road Safety Education to include road safety education in the National school curriculum	Ministry of Education/ Commissioner TVET	In progress
Strengthen enforcement on DMC and reckless/careless driving (human error)	Uganda Police, Ministry of Transport	In progress
Popularize road safety campaigns and road user education	UPDN/ Development partners	UPDN engaged in advocacy with Gov,t. E.g Red cross recently acquired Ambulances through Government.
Follow up to ensure the day is gazette on the National Calendar	Ministry of Local Government	In progress
Continuously participate in behavior change campaign through National drivers' conferences, pushing for punitive measures on errant drivers and pursuing recommendation for a National Hotline to report errant drivers-Promote self-regulation	UPDN/ Uganda Traffic Police, Road safety partners	In progress
Pursue the Ministry for Works and Transport and MoES for certification and accreditation of drivers-National Qualification framework	Ministry of Works & Transport/ MoES	In progress
Advocate for every third Sunday of November to be recognized in Uganda's calendar	UPDN/Inter Religious Council of Uganda	In Plan .Date not yet reached

1.2 DOR EVENT ACHEIVEMENTS:

Activity 1.1: Massive participation by relevant stakeholders

The function was flagged off by Dr.Hasifa Kasule from World Health Organization with the chief guest being Minister of Kampala (Betty Olive Kamyu). Many drivers associations; (Kampala Operational Taxi Stages Association, Uganda Long Distance and Heavy Trucks Drivers' Association ,Uganda National Lorry Drivers and Transporters' Association ,Haulage Truckers' Uganda, Private Sector Foundation Drivers' Initiative , Zana Tusituke Boda Boda Cooperative Society, Kampala Metropolitan Boda Boda Entrepreneur, United Bus Drivers' Association, Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union, Entebbe Taxi Stages Drivers and Conductors' Association, Namayemba Taxi Drivers and Conductors' Association, etc), driving schools (Prestige Driving school, Graben Logistics Academy, Uganda Driving Standards' Agency

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and Chairperson Uganda Driving School Owners' Association), Uganda Traffic Police (The Director was represented by Norman Musinga the Commandant Traffic KMP and several officials from the department of traffic police), Uganda Police Force band crew and other stakeholders.

All the recommendations by the invited stakeholders indicated positive efforts towards improving road safety issues and joint advocacy.

KEY CHALLENGES:

- Limited time in mobilizing participation of other important stakeholders like; Ministry of Works and Transport, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Sports including others like Insurance Regulatory Authority.
- Limited Resources to ably cater for mobilization of all relevant stakeholders and taking care of participants' welfare (food and refreshment). Generally UPDN footed 98% of the budget internally
- Limited awareness and recognition on this International day by various stakeholders and players in the road sector.
- Inability for organizers (UPDN) to outsource service provision to an independent events service provider due to lack of resources resulted to issues like poor quality of PAS and poor participant's welfare management.

LESSON LEARNED:

- We need to in time, constitute a multi-sectorial organizing committee in advance to support improved stakeholder mobilization for future commemoration events
- Government participation through various agencies showcasing Government achievements in the transport sector and road safety would promote visibility.
- There is need for early planning on stakeholder engagement to support timely resource mobilization.
- More Government agencies and development partners need to join hands with one voice in such events to jointly front key road safety issues to responsible policy holders.
- There is need to profile some road accident survivors to directly tell their stories to facilitate educative messages.

CONCLUSIONS:

UPDN would like to appreciate all partners, Government stakeholders, driver associations, invited and non-invited guest for their participation in this noble cause towards remembering road safety victims and improving on road safety. We would like to assure all participants that close follow up and engagements shall be done by UPDN on various recommendations through various modalities including media engagement, stakeholder meetings, advocacy, research publications, etc.

This event shall be organized on an annual basis by UPDN where we shall ensure pre awareness campaigns and reach out to everyone. We further look towards engaging Government so that this day is gazetted specifically for road accident victims and survivors.

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Driver association members participating in a road match advocating for road safety awareness through messages.



Uganda Police Brass Band leading the Day of Remembrances' march



UPDN staff members on awareness campaign during World day of remembrance for Road Traffic Victims



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