

Police sets tough safety rules as schools reopen

Traffic police vow strict enforcement of speed limits, vehicle checks, and school safety measures.

BY DAVID WALUGEMBE

The Uganda Police Force has issued tough guidelines to ensure the safety of learners and other road users as schools reopen for the first term today.

Mr Michael Kananura, the traffic police spokesperson, warned road users and the public against violating the regulations.

"It is the period when we see people driving without a licence, loading excess learners, passengers, and covering the registration plates of vehicles, which is an offence," Mr Kananura said.

He said the police would be deployed to different checkpoints to impound vehicles violating the traffic rules and regulations, especially during morning and evening rush hours.

"All road users are called upon to play their part in safeguarding lives in this

BACKGROUND

The police crime report for the year 2024 recorded a total of 25,107 road crashes, resulting in 25,808 casualties. The traffic police department attributes the road crashes to reckless driving, poor road conditions, human error, and other factors that contribute to the endless road crashes leading to deaths and injuries.

crucial period. The increasing movement of learners, where many are vulnerable, increases cases of road crashes if care is not taken," he explained.

Mr Kananura advised motorists to slow down near schools, pedestrian crossings, and busy road areas. He also urged parents, guardians and teachers to teach the children road safety rules and encourage them to wear helmets for protection.

"Some Ugandans refuse to stop when waved down for security reasons, which is not good at all. You should avoid careless overtaking and reckless driving as they are the major causes of road accidents," he said.



Kituma Rusoke, police spokesperson

Mr Kananura advised school administrators to avoid using unauthorised vehicles and urged them to use those clearly marked with the name of the school and not carry other passengers after dropping off the students in the morning.

He also warned against overloading the learners.

"We count people below 12 years old as two to make one passenger. The

[omnibus] vehicle is allowed to carry not more than 28 students, but some schools carry 30 and others 40 students. Let us not wait for traffic officers to enforce it, but the administrators should be vigilant," he advised.

Health status

At the same media briefing, Mr Kituma Rusoke, the police spokesperson, encouraged parents to share the health status of their children at school to reduce cases of death of learners in school, which tarnishes the names of the institutions.

Mr Kituma urged the school administrators to strengthen the access controls by recording the full names of visitors, vehicle registration, and verifying the names of people picking up the children.

"In 2025, we registered cases where a parent drops off a child and another parent picks them up, so they bring their domestic violence to school, which causes conflicts."

He also urged the administrators to check the students' luggage, and rigorously inspect the school environs for open manholes and faulty wiring, and also install fire-fighting equipment to avoid fatal cases.