From Editor

Don't lock anyone in parked car

The recent death of a child trapped in a car serves as a tragic reminder that vehicles, which we often view as safe, can quickly become deadly. Many drivers underestimate how rapidly temperatures can rise inside a parked car, even on moderately warm days. In just a few minutes, the temperature in the interior can reach life-threatening levels.

Children are particularly vulnerable, as their bodies heat up three to five times faster than adults, although adults are also at risk. Heatstroke, confusion, and organ failure can affect anyone, and survival depends on swift action and awareness.

As drivers, we have a responsibility to ourselves and others. No one should ever be left unattended in a locked car, whether it is a baby, a child, or even an adult who may be unwell. Cracking a window or parking in the shade does not make it safe. Every year, people lose their lives due to underestimating the danger, often thinking, "I will just be a few minutes." However, 10 minutes can be more than enough time for serious harm to occur.

Awareness is the first step toward prevention. Always check your car before locking it. Never allow anyone, regardless of age, to stay alone inside a vehicle. If you encounter someone locked in a car, take immediate action: call emergency services and, if necessary, break a window to save a life.

This tragedy should inspire a change in behaviour, not just sorrow. The heat inside a car is not merely an inconvenience, it is a silent killer. As motorists, parents, and community members, our vigilance can make the difference between life and death. Be aware, be responsible, and never leave anyone alone in a locked vehicle.

Victoria Kyolaba

General Manager Editorial
Daniel Kalinaki

Managing Editor NMG-U
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Creative Editor
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Features Editor
Carolyne Atangaza

DM Today Editor
Victoria K. Namatovu

Layout Michael Louboyera Musaasizi

Cover photo Courtesy

Contributors Paul Kaganzi, Sylvia Mwesigye, Geoffrey Oyet Okwera, Olivier Mukaaya, Evelyn Khorono Lufafa, Beatrice Nakibuuka

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