

Kiryandongo bus crash death toll rises to 23

Tragic. The ill-fated bus rammied into a tractor and lost control before it was also rammied into by a trailer.

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The death toll of the bus accident that occurred at Kiryandongo on Friday night has reached 23, with scores still in critical condition at Kiryandongo hospital while some have been airlifted to Mulago hospital for further treatment.

"When I arrived at the scene, I found 11 bodies lying on the ground," Mr Umar

Babu, the manager of Gaagaa Bus Service in Lira, told *Sunday Monitor* yesterday.

On Friday night, a Gaagaa bus, registration number UAK562 L, en route to Kampala, was involved in an accident in Kiryandongo District, killing 18 people on the spot.

The Kiryandongo hospital medical superintendent, Dr Godfrey Kisembo, told *Sunday Monitor* that four of those who had been rushed to the hospital in critical condition had succumbed to their injuries.

The managers of Gaaga Bus company in Lira told *Sunday Monitor* that the bus's fateful trip from Lira Town was delayed by 19 minutes due to heavy rain. The bus setting off at 5.49pm instead of the earlier scheduled 5.30pm on Friday.

"I told the booking clerk to delay the bus a little to wait for those who had booked but not yet reported. My clerk told me this rain was not going to stop, so we should just proceed and let the bus go," Mr Babu said.

How it happened

The bus then left Lira for Kampala with only 23 passengers on board. Mr Babu said six more people boarded the bus along the way.

It was still raining when the bus rammied into a tractor at Kiryandongo, 124km from Lira.

"I spoke to the driver myself [about] what had happened. The driver told me he entered into some rain abruptly, so when the rain poured abruptly, he saw a tractor in front of him. As he hooted and tried to dodge the tractor, it again came back on the other side he was trying to move to,"



Injured. A victim of the accident is put into a UPDF helicopter to transport him to Kiryandongo hospital. COURTESY PHOTOS

Mr Babu explained.

At this point, the driver, identified as Majid Kintu, rammied the bus into the tractor from behind and lost control.

Mr Kintu, who cheated death but with multiple injuries, told his boss that when he saw a trailer coming, he tried to move off the road but the trailer knocked the bus at the passenger seat number seven.

"It wasn't a head-on collision," Mr Babu said. The bus inspector, Mr Robert Aloro, died on arrival at Kiryandongo hospital, where 16 others were nursing injuries.

In total, the company lost three crew members - the inspector, Aloro, turn man only identified as Manshur and the conductor, also only identified as Asiko.

Kole District Local Government lost three senior personnel - Salume

Katule, a staff of the National Instructor College; Abilonino Geoffrey Olet (auditor at the district) and Samson Thembo (water officer at the district).

A lawyer, Levi Etum, and Jimmy Langalanga of Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) based in Lira, also died in the accident.

Nine-year old Nathan Mudangwa, who was among those who were admitted to Kiryandongo hospital, died on Saturday morning, the hospital administrators said.

Victims identified so far

Some of the other bodies that have been identified and some claimed by relatives are of Salome Atuhairwe, 43, a resident of Kampala; Hamad Bogere, 44, a resident of Luwero District; Hassan Oringiya, 42, a resident of Kisoro District; one Mboinera;



Treatment. Mr Simon Ojok, who was injured in the accident, is attended to by a health worker in Kiryandongo hospital

Charles Obedi, 32 from Opok; Saidi Kyambi, 40, a resident of Iganga District; Norman Mulangwa, 7 a resident of Kampala.

Dr Kisembo identified those who were admitted with serious injuries as Majidu Kintu, 60, a resident of Kampala; Ruth Nabisiubi, 22, a resident of Gayaza in Kampala; Jackline Apiyo, 32, a resident of Lira District; Nathan Mudanwa, 9, a resident of Lira District; Mark Kabunga, 6 from Lira District; Abdulsiman Issa, a Kenyan national; Abdul Sempija, 26 a resident of Namungoona in Kampala; David Mutebi, 29 a resident of Namasuba in

Kampala and Joel Wasswa, 28, a resident of Makindye in Kampala.

Others who were injured in the accident include Geoffrey Namusoso, a resident of Kihura District; Simon Ojok, 26, a resident of Lira District and Gloria Akulu Amongin, 30 a resident of Lira District.

Out of those who were admitted at Kiryandongo hospital, Jackline Apiyo, Mark Kabunga, Gloria Amongin, Abdul Sempija, David Mutebi, Joel Wasswa, Geoffrey Namusoso and Simon Ojok, a UNHCR employee, were airlifted to Mulago hospital by a military helicopter.

Past accidents

May 21: Eighteen passengers were injured when a bus, registration number UAW 354V, belonging to Link Bus Company, which was travelling from Bwera to Kampala, overturned in Kalebaryo, Lake Katwe Sub-County in Kasese District.

May 19: Five people were killed when a commuter taxi, registration number UAY, rammied into a stationary lorry on the Kampala-Gulu highway in Kiryandongo District.

May 15: Mr Eric Musana, the Member of Parliament for Buyaga East in Kagadi District, cheated death after being involved in a motor accident on Mityana-Kampala road. The Legislator was driving to Kampala when his Prado, registration number UBB 144R, collided head-on with a lorry, registration number UBA530F in Mubende District.

May 14: Three people died on the spot and two others sustained injuries when a Link Bus, registration number UAM 492B, with more than 60 passengers on board rammied into a speeding trailer carrying a wheel loader moving in the opposite direction in Kiboga on the Kampala-Hoima Road.

April 26: Two Kasese municipal council leaders, a deputy speaker and secretary for social services, died in Rubirizi District when a Toyota Premio they were travelling in was knocked by

a Fuso truck.

April 15: Eight people were injured after the taxi, registration number UAW 680Y, which they were travelling in rammied into a trailer and overturned at the Wambewo Avenue roundabout on Jinja Road in Kampala.

April 11: Three people travelling on a boda boda motorcycle were knocked dead by a speeding bus, registration number UAX 002A, belonging to Gateway coaches in Lwanyonyi Village, Mukono District.

March 8: One person died and eight others were injured after a Baby Coa bus they were travelling on overturned when the driver failed to negotiate a sharp corner, outside Kisoro Town.

February 9: Four former students of Ndejje Secondary School in Luwero District died when a car they were travelling in rammied into a station truck.

January 12: Two people died when a Fuso lorry, registration number UAY 459M, rammied into a taxi, registration number UAT 905K, in Nkambo village, Mityana District.

January 7: One person died and others sustained injuries after a bus belonging to Savanna Coac collided with a Fuso truck on Mt Road.

Compiled by
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RAMADHAN TIP

Make sure you don't miss early morning meal (Daakuh)

A lot of people, especially those who have got obesity problem, think that missing Daakuh (early morning meal) would be a good way to keep them healthy and burn their fats down.

However, they usually end up being the laziest and then they eat so much after

Ifar (breaking fast) that instead of decreasing their weight, it increases it. It is advisable not to eat too much at Daakuh time.

Those who usually eat Daakuh, eat so much that they can't even move for a few minutes. Make sure that you eat in moderation. Prophet Muhammad instructed Muslims to compartmentalise

their stomach into three equal parts. You should eat as much as that which will be enough for the first part. Then you should drink as much as that which will be enough for the second part.

The third part should be left empty. Make sure that you do not eat oily or acidic food. Watery and/or green food would be a much better option. Like it is

with Daakuh, it is also advisable not eat too much during Ifar.

It is a highly recommended act to the fast with a date or sweet bananas are not available, the recommendation goes to opening it with wa

BY Al-Mahdi Ss