

Expand Masaka road

EDITOR: On the evening of September 17, yet another road traffic accident claimed the lives of more than a dozen people and left scores more hanging on for their lives on Masaka Road. The Tanzanians were returning from a wedding of their daughter in Kampala. What is shocking is the crush happened a few metres away from the famous *Fika-Salaama* operation checkpoint, one of the many established on the 130km Kampala-Masaka stretch. One would imagine that all the potential causes of such an accident would have been dealt with.

Road accident causes can be broadly categorised into three; behavioural, mechanical and structural causes. The Government and civil society are already doing enough to deal with the

behavioural issues such as drink driving, ensuring trained and qualified drivers through numerous campaigns. There is an attempt to deal with the mechanical causes.

However, the Government needs to work seriously on the third issue of structural causes that is the poor and mostly narrow roads. For a busy highway such as the Kampala-Masaka road, what does it take for the Government to make it a dual carriage way? This is just a 130km stretch!

The Government can plan to make this stretch a dual carriageway, as a pilot intervention, while continuing to sensitise people on good driving behaviour and ensuring the sound mechanical condition of vehicles.

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