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# POLICE WARNS TRUCK DRIVERS AHEAD OF EASTER

By Simon Masaba

As the Easter season approaches, the Police has issued a stern warning to truck drivers against carrying passengers, saying there has been a surge in accidents that have claimed lives in recent weeks.

Michael Kananura, the spokesperson Directorate of Traffic and Road Safety, announced deployments across the country ahead of the Easter period, with arrests imminent for drivers who flout traffic regulations.

"Members of the public are strongly cautioned against boarding open trucks, as these vehicles are not designed for passenger transport and they expose occupants to danger in the event of a crash," Kananura told journalists at the Police headquarters in Naguru, Kampala, yesterday.

The past week, Kananura said, has witnessed a series of fatal crashes that have highlighted the urgent need for stricter enforcement and heightened public awareness.

On Saturday, three people were killed and six others injured when a Mitsubishi Fuso truck carrying market vendors overturned multiple times in Kayenje, Ntungamo district. The truck was reportedly speeding when the driver lost control.

"The incident highlights the vulnerability of traders and vendors who frequently use open trucks as a means of transport to and from markets – a practice that has proven deadly," Kananura said.

Just a day earlier, on March 20, three people died and eight others were injured in a head-on collision at Nkondo village in Luwero district along the Kampala-Gulu Highway.

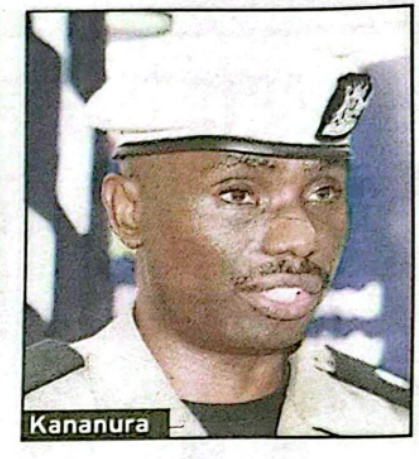
PHOTO BY IVAN WAKIBI




**The wreckage of taxi UBR 062Q involved in fatal accident following a collision with trailer at Namasoga village along Iganga-Jinja highway on Friday night. Seven people died.** (Scan picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

The crash involved a Tata lorry, which attempted to overtake several vehicles and collided with an oncoming Toyota Hiace. All casualties were passengers in the omnibus.

The same day, another fatal crash occurred at D'Venue Hotel involving a speeding vehicle driven by a one Duke Kwezi, who died in the accident. The vehicle struck two motorcycles, killing both riders and a female pedestrian.


Kananura

"These trucks, designed for cargo rather than passenger transport, offer no protection in the event of a crash. Occupants are exposed to the elements and risk being thrown from the vehicle during sudden stops, sharp turns, or roll-overs," Kananura noted.

He called upon local authorities, market leaders and community representatives to support road safety