

## MOTOR MART



Drivers should only overtake when it is safe to do so. Photo by Jacqueline Nakandi

# Have a safe ride this festive season

By Richard Kiyimba

**T**he festive season is characterised by heavy traffic. The roads are always busy and a lot of activities are going on all over the place. Therefore, extra caution must be taken by the different road users to make sure that the festive season ends with less casualties and accidents or with no accidents at all.

There are measures one has to take to ensure that the season goes well for everyone.

Ensure that you drive at a safe speed. A safe speed is speed compliant to the environment and road terrain. Every driver must know what speed to drive while off road, on a highway and trading

centres as well as around road curves. Failure to maintain the right speed increases the risk of accidents.

Drivers should avoid overloading. Loading can be in terms of weight or volume. Carrying more passengers than recommended is also an overload. Loading affects the vehicle stability and creates more tension and heat on the vehicle tyres. Overload by volume is when the items carried are protruding out of the vehicle. This can be dangerous to other road users.

Only overtake when it is safe. One must have clear visibility of the road ahead, as well as calculate the overtaking distance and time for effective movement.

Do not use drugs or drive under the influence of alcohol. A driver must be

sober. Drugs and alcohol have negative effects on the mind of the driver and they put the life of the driver, passengers and other road users at risk.

Take breaks after about two hours of driving. This will refresh the driver and keep him sober or alert. A break of about ten minutes for every two hours is refreshing.

Check the mechanical condition of the car and make sure it is serviced, brake operation is effective, lighting and signals are working.

Also ensure the tyre condition is satisfactory and the pressure is adequate. Make sure that seat belts are operational and used. Remember to check the wheel nuts for tightness.

Merry Christmas.