

According to the Directorate of Traffic Police, today, majority of incidents result in both fatalities and injuries involving motor vehicles, with passengers emerging as the hardest-hit.

BY BENSON TUMUSIIME

At least 36 people have lost their lives in a series of road crashes recorded countrywide within the last two months, raising fresh concerns over road safety.

The Directorate of Traffic Police Spokesperson, SP Michael Kananura told this publication yesterday that there has been a shift in road traffic crash patterns.

Today, majority of incidents result in both fatalities and injuries involving motor vehicles, with passengers emerging as the hardest-hit group.

"This is unlike previous trends where vulnerable road users, particularly motorcyclists, their passengers and pedestrians were the majority affected. This was due to over speeding and careless overtaking, both of which continue to pose significant risks to road safety," he said.

Recent accidents

On the morning of March 16, Masaka City businessman Bosco Senyonjo, also known as Bosco Bitanda, and two of his children died in a crash on the Kampala-Entebbe Expressway. Mr Kananura explained that the driver lost control of the vehicle due to speeding at the Mpa-la Interchange point.

Other notable accidents included a fatal crash on March 20, at 11:30pm at Nkondo Village along the Gulu Highway in Luweero District. The crash involved a Toyota Hiace omnibus and a Tata lorry. Three people were killed and others seriously injured.

According to Kananura, the Tata lorry attempted to overtake a queue of vehicles and collided head-on with the oncoming Hiace.

On the same day, a fatal crash occurred at D'Venu Hotel in Masindi District involving a speeding vehicle that lost control and rammed into two motorcycles, killing both riders instantly along with a female pedestrian. The vehicle then ploughed through the hotel's perimeter wall, coming to rest in the compound.

In Ntungamo District, three people were killed and six injured in a crash in Kayenje Town Council on March 21. The Mitsubishi Fuso truck involved was

Road crash deaths rise to 36 in only 2 months



Excessive speed significantly reduces a driver's reaction time and increases the severity of impact in the event of a crash. However, there are other causes of accidents such as the car's condition, necessitating the need for a comprehensive investigation. PHOTO/TAUSI NAKATO

5,144

The number of people who died in road crashes, according to the Police Annual Crime Report, 2024.

transporting market vendors when the driver, reportedly speeding, lost control and overturned multiple times, leaving victims battered and bruised.

In Iganga District on March 20, seven people were killed and six injured in a night crash at Namukonyu. A Toyota Hiace taxi attempted to overtake another vehicle and collided head-on with a Mercedes Benz Actros trailer.

Some victims died on the spot, while others were rushed to nearby health facilities. The deceased were identified as Mudasiru Kibanda (28), Isaac Sabina (28), Abudallah Nyiro, Samuel Odokonyero (28), Ngolobe Eddie (24), Wandera Edris (34), and Balijuka Kirungi Magidu (32). The wreckage was towed

to Iganga Central Police Station pending inspection.

Meanwhile, in Jinja on March 21, one person died and several others were injured after a taxi rammed into a stationary sugarcane truck at Kagoma Hill in Buwenge Town Council. The crash was attributed to reckless overtaking and poor visibility.

Earlier, on March 1, five people, including four members of the same family, were killed in a crash at Girigiri Village along the Mayuge-Namayingo Road. A truck reportedly developed brake failure and rammed into two motorcycles parked by the roadside, snuffing out lives in the blink of an eye.

In another incident in Kamuli District on the same day, a fuel supply driver identified as Jamil Mumbya died instantly after a head-on collision between a Nissan double cabin and a sugarcane truck at Nawantumbi along the Kamuli-Jinja Highway.

Caution to road users

Traffic police advised road users to exercise caution while overtaking. SP Kananura said overtaking

should be avoided in high-risk situations such as corners, heavy traffic, or built-up areas.

"Drivers are cautioned not to overtake when another vehicle from behind is already overtaking, or when a vehicle ahead has begun overtaking. Such actions greatly increase the risk of head-on collisions and serious road crashes," SP Kananura said.

He emphasised that speeding remains the leading cause of fatalities on the roads, yet it is entirely preventable.

"Excessive speed significantly reduces a driver's reaction time and increases the severity of impact in the event of a crash. For instance, a pedestrian struck at 30 km/h has up to a 90 percent chance of surviving with minimal or no serious injuries. The same cannot be said for one hit at 100 km/h," SP Kananura said.

A road safety expert, who preferred anonymity, told this newspaper that the challenges of road crashes go

beyond police capacity. He argued that government must improve crash data management and establish post-crash facilities, including well-equipped ambulances, highway health centres, and trained first responders.

"When crashes happen, there is no comprehensive investigation to know the exact cause. Apart from saying reckless driving or speeding, there must be a mechanism to know whether the crash resulted from the vehicle's condition, road design, or driver error. This is the only way we can have justice for crash victims and successful prosecution of culprits causing deaths and injuries," the expert said.

Previous report

Last year, Director of Traffic and Road Safety, AIGP Lawrence Nwubani revealed at the launch of the Police Annual Crime Report that 5,144 Ugandans died in road crashes in 2024, an average of 14 deaths per day, up from 4,806 in 2023.

According to the report, 228 were drivers, 1,720 motorcyclists, 138 pedal cyclists, 676 passengers on motorcycles, eight passengers on tricycles, 144 passengers in light omnibuses, eight passengers in medium omnibuses, 33 passengers in heavy omnibuses, 438 passengers in other vehicles, 1,666 pedestrians, and 85 categorised as "other."

In total, there were 25,808 casualties from road crashes in 2024 compared to 24,728 in 2023, a 4.4 percent increase. Deaths among motorcyclists, a common means of transport, rose from 1,520 in 2023 to 1,720 in 2024, reflecting daily fatalities of four to five riders.

More crashes were reported during daytime than nighttime, with Sundays proving deadliest.

"There were more crashes (3,790) reported on Sundays than any other day of the week in 2024. In addition, 3,765 and 3,686 crashes were reported on Saturdays and Mondays respectively. Fewer crashes (3,330) were reported on Tuesdays compared to the other days of the week," AIGP Nwubani said.

The Directorate of Traffic and Road Safety registered 426,432 cases nationwide in 2024 compared to 528,025 in 2023, a decline of 19.2 percent.

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REPORTED TRAFFIC INCIDENTS FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2026

March 23, 2026

Reports from the Busoga Sub-region indicate that 13 passengers were killed in the space of a month.

March 21, 2026

Three people lost their lives in Ntungamo on Rwekiniro Road in Kayenje Town Council, Ntungamo District.

March 20, 2026

Four people were killed in a Masindi

road crash near D'Venu Hotel.

March 20, 2026

Three were killed and eight injured along the Kampala-Gulu highway at Nkondo Village in Luweero District.

March 16, 2026

Three people died in a single vehicle crash on the Entebbe-Kampala Expressway, a stark reminder of how quickly fate can turn.

March 10, 2026

Three passengers died while 11 sustained injuries at California Village in Bweyale Town Council, along the Gulu-Kampala Highway in Kiryandongo District.

March 1, 2026

Six people were pronounced dead and 13 injured in a crash along the

Hoima-Kiboga road.

January 8, 2026

In the Albertine Region, at around 10am, a fatal accident occurred at Kisona Village along the Gulu-Kampala Highway in Kiryandongo District, claiming one life.

Total fatalities: 36 in two months

