National News

Eight people dead, 10 injured in road crashes

Police have opened investigations into both crashes and urged motorists to exercise caution, particularly at night.

BY MONITOR TEAM

At least eight people were killed and 10 others injured in two separate road crashes that occurred over the weekend on the Mityana–Mubende and Kampala–Gulu highways.

In the deadliest incident, eight passengers died following a Sunday evening crash at Kyakatebe Village in Kassanda District on the Mityana–Mubende highway.

The 6.40pm crash involved a commuter taxi, registration number UBQ 154K, travelling from Mityana towards Mubende, which rammed into a parked bus, registration number UBE 535H, belonging to Link Bus Company.

The Wamala Regional Police spokesperson, Mr Lameck Kigozi, said the death toll rose from six to eight after two victims who had initially survived succumbed to severe injuries at Mityana General Hospital.

The deceased were identified as Richard Vumulia, 36, Anita Nankya 34, Esther Katusiime, 15, Janat Atugonza, 40, Rined Ahura, five, and Christine Kabaitalya, 55, all residents of Bunyangabu District, and Phiona Atuhirwe, 39, from Ruti in Mbarara City. All were occupants of the commuter taxi.

"We appeal to relatives of the deceased to collect the bodies from Kiganda Health Centre IV mortuary," Mr Kigozi said.

He added that three survivors, including Robert Muganzi, 38, remain hospitalised at Mityana General Hospital, while the identities of two other injured male adults were yet to be established by press time.

Police said the taxi driver, believed to be largely responsible for the crash, survived and fled the scene. A manhunt has been launched to arrest him.

"The driver of the taxi, registration number UBQ 154K, survived and is still at large. His identity has not yet been fully established," Mr Kigozi said.



A commuter taxi and bus that collided head-on at Kyakatebi Village in Kassanda District on Mityana-Mubende highway on Sunday. PHOTO/ENOCK MATOVU

Preliminary investigations indicate that the taxi was speeding and lost visibility due to dust caused by ongoing roadworks. Eyewitnesses reported that the driver was attempting to overtake a truck when he rammed into the bus, which had parked by the roadside to wait for the dust to settle.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident on the Kampala–Gulu highway, seven passengers sustained injuries when a YY Coach bus overturned at Kakinzi Village in Luweero District on Saturday night.

The crash occurred at about 10.30 pm and involved a bus, registration number UBF 807D, which was travelling from Kampala to Gulu.

The Savannah Regional Police spokesperson, Mr Sam Twinemazima, said the bus encountered a broken-down trailer, registration number UAS 412A (Mercedes-Benz), which had been left stationary on the road.

"When the bus driver attempted to dodge the stationary trailer amid oncoming traffic from the Gulu side, he lost control, causing the bus to overturn and collide with the trailer," Mr Twinemazima said.

ANNUAL CRIME REPORT

According to the 2024 Police Annual Crime Report, Uganda recorded 25,107 road crashes last year, resulting in 25,808 casualties. Traffic police attribute most accidents to reckless driving, poor road conditions, and human error.

The injured passengers were rushed to nearby health facilities for treatment, while the damaged bus was towed to Luwero Police Station pending mechanical inspection.

Police have opened investigations into both crashes and urged motorists to exercise caution, particularly at night.

"Drivers should maintain safe speeds, be alert to road conditions, and promptly report broken-down vehicles to avoid such tragic incidents," Mr Twinemazima said.

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