Busoga roads kill 13 in one month

Police attribute the recent accidents wave to carelessness and over speeding, especially at night.

BY TAUSI NAKATO

At least 13 people have lost their lives in a series of road crashes recorded across the Busoga Sub-region within a month, raising fresh concerns over road safety.

The latest and deadliest incident occurred on March 20, in Namukunyu, Iganga District, where seven people were killed and six others injured in a night crash.

The accident involved a Mercedes Benz, trailer and a Toyota Hiace taxi.

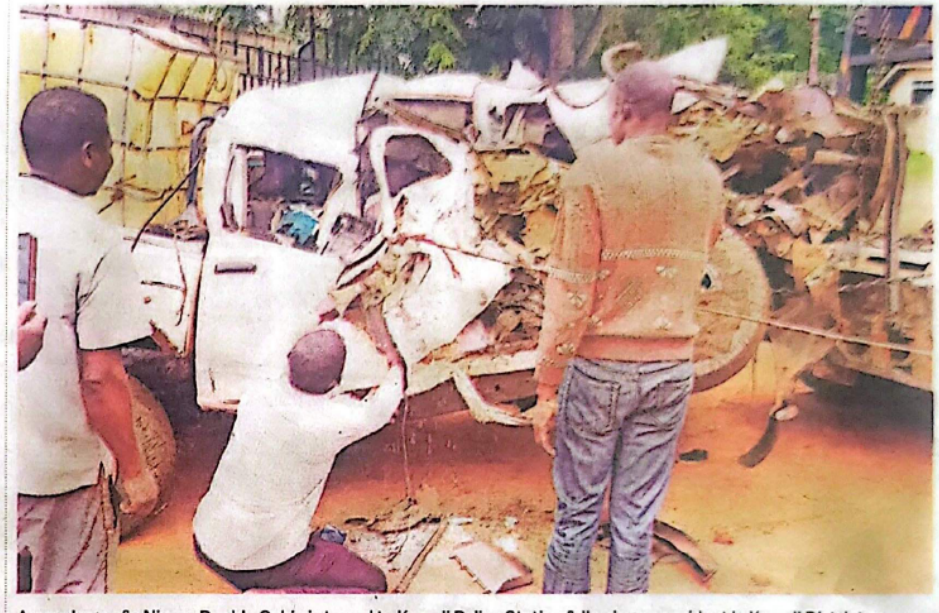
Preliminary police findings indicate that the taxi, which was travelling from Jinja, attempted to overtake another vehicle and collided head-on with the trailer.

Seven people died on the spot, while others were seriously injured.

The deceased were identified as Ssebanda Mudasiru, 28, a resident of Kiteete in Wakiso District; Isaac Sabina, 28, a resident of Semuto in Nakaseke District; Abudallah Nyiro of Busia; Samuel Odokonyero, 28, of Nwoya District; Eddie Ngolobe, 24, of Bugiri District; Edris Wandera, 34, of Busia District; and Balijuka Kirungi Magidu, 32, of Masindi District.

Police said the injured were rushed to nearby health facilities, while the bodies of the dead were taken to Nakavule Hospital Mortuary for post-mortem.

The wreckage of the vehicles was towed to Iganga Central Police Station pending inspection.



A wreckage of a Nissan Double Cabin is towed to Kamuli Police Station following an accident in Kamuli District on March 1. A trapped body was later extracted from the damaged vehicle. PHOTO/MOSES MUTAKA

APRIL 8 CRACKDOWN ON OLD VEHICLES STARTS

Jinja

Meanwhile, in Jinja District, one person died and several others were injured after a taxi rammed into a stationary sugarcane truck at Kigoma Hill in Buwenge Town Council on March 21.

The crash was attributed to reckless overtaking and poor visibility at night.

Earlier, on March 1, five people, including four members of the same family, were killed in a crash at Girigiri Village on the Mayuge-Namayingo Road in Mpungwe Sub-county.

The accident involved a TATA truck and two motorcycles that had stopped on the side of the road due to a broken-down vehicle.

The truck reportedly developed brake failure and rammed into the victims.

Kamuli

In another incident in Kamuli District, on March 1, 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 on the Kamuli-Jinja Highway. The driver of the truck, who fled the scene, was still on the run by press time.

Police spokespersons across the sub-region have attributed the rising number of fatal accidents to reckless driving, poor vehicle conditions, and negligence by road users.

Busoga East Police spokesperson Michael Kasadha attributed the recent accident to carelessness and speeding, especially at night when drivers tend to ignore traffic rules in the absence of officers.

He said many motorists only exercise caution under supervision but become reckless when unmonitored.

"Most of these accidents are caused by reckless overtaking and failure to follow road rules. Drivers must exercise discipline on the road," he said.

Mr Kasadha warned against overtaking in unsafe areas such as bends, because they leads to head-on collisions.

"We continue to see drivers taking unnecessary risks, especially at night. Road safety starts with individual responsibility. Motorists must be disciplined, patient, and mindful of other road users to prevent these avoidable accidents," he added.

Mr Samson Lubega, the Busoga North Police spokesperson, said over speeding and mechanical failures, particularly brake failure are major contributors to road crashes.

"We continue to caution motorists to ensure their vehicles are in good mechanical condition and to avoid over speeding," he said.

Mr Lubega said police have intensified sensitisation campaigns targeting road users to help reduce road crashes, with a focus on promoting safe driving practices, adherence to traffic regulations, and regular vehicle maintenance.

He added that officers are engaging drivers, boda boda riders, and the general public through community outreach and highway patrols to curb reckless behaviour on the roads.

Kiira Region Police spokesperson James Mubi has warned about the dangers of poorly parked or broken-down vehicles on highways, especially sugarcane trucks with faulty lights, worn-out brakes and missing number plates.

Traffic rules

He urged drivers to place proper warning signs when their vehicles break down to prevent road crashes.

"Drivers should place proper warning signs when their vehicles breakdown to prevent road crashes," Mr Mubi said.

Mr Mubi called on all road users to follow traffic laws, urging families to keep mentally ill persons away from roads and parents to supervise children, stressing that road safety is a shared responsibility.

In a bid to improve road safety and reduce accidents, the government recently announced a crackdown on old and unroadworthy vehicles.

According to a 20-day directive issued on March 18 by the State Minister for Works, Mr Fred Byamukama, authorities will begin removing unroadworthy taxis from the roads starting April 8.

6.4%

Fatalities. The Uganda Police Force Annual Crime Report, released in February 2025, highlighted that nationwide road crashes rose by 6.4 percent in 2024 to a total of 25,107, resulting in 5,144 deaths.

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