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Govt shelves rollout of new speed limit rules

On June 12, 2025, the government suspended implementation to consult stakeholders.

BY ANDREW BAGALA

The enforcement of the automated Express Penalty Scheme (EPS Auto) and new speed limit regulations has hit a roadblock nearly a year after the government suspended its rollout, following threats by motorists to strike in protest.

The Ministry of Works and Transport spokesperson, Ms Susan Kataike, said a review of the contentious issues raised by motorists found that 90 percent of the concerns were valid.

"The Ministry of Works and Transport is going to carry out countrywide consultations beginning mid-March 2026. Over 90 percent of the issues raised by the public were genuine concerns, and they have been rectified," Ms Kataike said.

"What needs to be taken back to Cabinet and Parliament for discussion will be taken back to ensure concurrence with the public recommendations. We await your contributions. The ministry does not intend to re-launch EPS and the Fines Issuance System (speed limit) until we are on the same page," she added.

The process of consultations, submission of the law to Cabinet, and eventual debate in Parliament often drags on for months, sometimes years.

In May 2025, the government began enforcing two traffic statutory instruments. The first, Statutory Instrument No. 56 of 2024, covers the Traffic and Road Safety (Express Penalty Scheme for Road Offenders) regulations, 2024.



A traffic police officer stops a motorist during an operation to nab defaulters of the Express Penalty Scheme on Kira Road in Kampala in 2025. PHOTO/FILE

The second is the Road Safety (Prescription of Speed Limits) regulations, which lowered speed limits for vehicles, particularly those contributing most to accidents. Urban speed limits were cut from 50 km/hr to 30 km/hr.

Under the regulations, fines for speeding shot up to Shs600,000, while the payment window was reduced from 28 days to just 72 hours. Motorists who failed to pay within three days faced a 50 percent surcharge, and drivers in transit had to clear pending fines before leaving the country.

Motorists immediately cried foul, threatening to strike. On June 12, 2025, the government suspended implementation for a month to consult stakeholders.

The suspension was later extended after President Museveni criticised the laws, arguing that police CCTV cameras were installed for security, not for collecting fines.

Last Thursday, Gen Katumba Wamala, Minister of Works and Transport, and his technical team met transport stakeholders to share review findings.

"Gaps identified during the review included insufficient signage on roads, inadequate sensitisation before the roll-out of traffic enforcement, the need for further consultations on the 72-hour payment window, and the 50 percent late fine," Ms Kataike said.

"There was also a need for clarification on the 30 km/hr speed in safe zones, mismatches between some camera speeds and recommended limits, and multiple receipts issuance, especially in the early stages of the rollout, but this was eventually rectified before the suspension," she added.

For now, the new traffic regulations remain shelved, but police will continue to enforce discipline on the roads using existing traffic laws.

BACKGROUND

- Original rollout: May 2025
- Suspension: June 12, 2025, after motorists threatened to strike

Regulations

- Urban speed limit: Reduced from 50 km/hr to 30 km/hr
- Maximum fine for speeding: Shs600,000
- Payment window: 72 hours (down from 28 days)
- Surcharge for late payment: 50%

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