

MOTORISTS URGED TO AVOID RECKLESS OVERTAKING, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT WHEN VISIBILITY IS POOR

By Charles Etukuri

The Police have attributed the Saturday accident that claimed seven members of one family to reckless driving.

The accident involved a collision between a Toyota Fielder and two trucks at Njagalakasayi, along the Masaka-Mbarara highway in Lwengo district.

Michael Kananura, the Directorate of Traffic and Road Safety spokesperson, said the deceased included 38-year-old Ivan Niwagaba, his wife Brenda Ainembabazi, 37, brother Sayuni Turihobwe, 39 and their four children – Keith Agaba, 10, Keitha Atuhaire, Masaiko Kanene, 5, and Keron Agaba, 2.

Kananura said the road crash occurred on Saturday at about 4:30am. "The crash involved a Fuso Fighter truck and a Toyota Fielder. Preliminary investigations indicate that the driver of the Toyota Fielder, who was travelling from the Masaka side, attempted to overtake a queue of vehicles and subsequently collided head-on with an oncoming Fuso truck," he said.

Both vehicles were on Saturday morning towed to Lwengo Central Police Station, while the bodies were taken to Masaka City mortuary pending post-mortem examination.

Kananura urged all motorists to avoid reckless overtaking, especially at

POLICE ATTRIBUTE DEADLY LWENGO ACCIDENT TO RECKLESS DRIVING

COURTESY PHOTO



A Fuso Fighter truck on top of a Toyota Fielder following a collision that left seven members of the same family dead at Njagalakasayi, along the Masaka-Mbarara highway in Lwengo district, on Saturday

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ Kananura advised drivers to limit night travel where possible and ensure they are well-rested to prevent fatigue-related crashes.

night when visibility is poor.

"Drivers are further advised to limit night travel where possible and ensure they are well-rested to prevent fatigue-related crashes," he said.

On December 23, *New Vision* published a detailed feature on black spots along the several highways, with the Police urging motorists, motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians to exercise caution on the roads during the festive season.

Winstone Katushabe, the commissioner for transport regulation and safety at the works ministry, urged motorists to obey traffic laws and avoid speeding, drink-driving

and dangerous overtaking.

"Road safety is a shared responsibility during the holiday period. As a ministry we continue to address road indiscipline and key behavioural factors that contribute to road crashes and these include speeding, drink-driving, inconsiderate driving manoeuvres, non-use of motorcycle helmets and child restraints, as well as distracted driving," Katushabe said.

In its annual crime report released in February this year, the Uganda Police Force indicated that road crash deaths in Uganda are a major crisis. Over 5,100 fatalities were reported in 2024 compared to 4,400 the previous year, giving an average of around 14 people dying daily.

Vulnerable users like pedestrians and motorcyclists (bodabodas) account for the majority of deaths, often due to poor road safety culture, mechanical issues, lack of helmets and speeding, making road crashes a leading killer of young people.