

By Joseph Makumbi

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has trained over 1,800 bodaboda riders under a nationwide initiative aimed at integrating Uganda's informal transport sector into the digital economy.

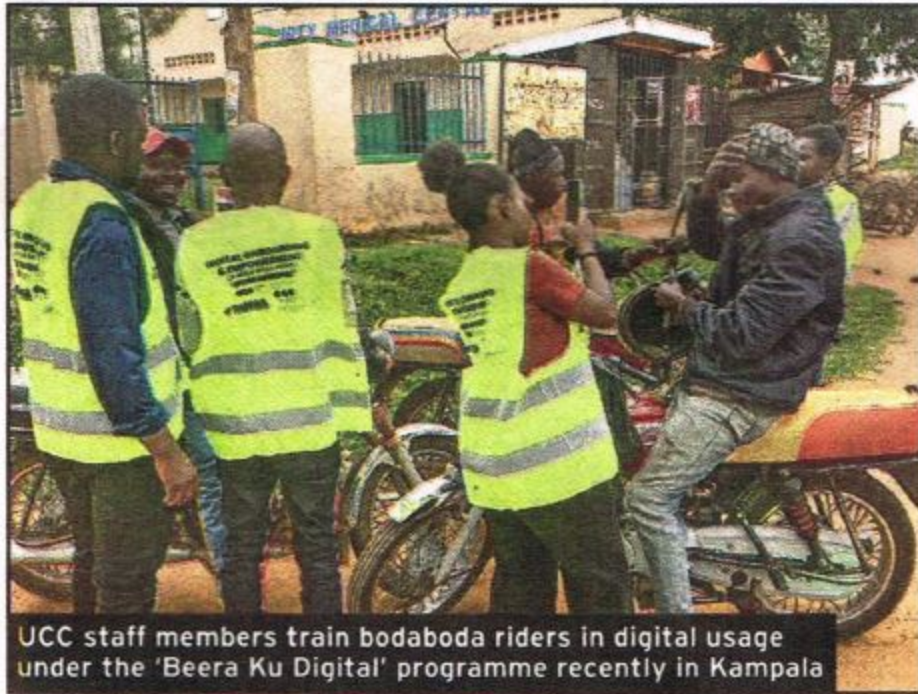
The programme, dubbed 'Beera Ku Digital', is designed as a structural intervention to bridge the digital divide within one of the country's most economically significant yet largely informal sectors. The initiative is currently being rolled out across the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.

TRAINING SESSIONS

Training sessions have already been conducted in Kalagi, Kyampisi, Nakifuma, Mukono Central and Kajjansi. UCC plans to expand the campaign to additional high-density areas, including Ndejje, Katabi, Kireka, Nansana and Gayaza.

Ibrahim Bbosa, UCC's head of public and international relations, said the training extends well beyond basic smartphone literacy. The curriculum is structured around five core pillars: digital financial services, cybersecurity awareness, navigation and logistics, consumer rights as well as professional ethics.

UCC takes digital economy literacy to bodaboda riders



UCC staff members train bodaboda riders in digital usage under the 'Beera Ku Digital' programme recently in Kampala

"By equipping riders with GPS [global positioning system] skills for route optimisation and mobile money systems for cashless transactions, we are addressing persistent industry challenges such as fuel inefficiency

and the risks associated with carrying cash," Bbosa said.

The Beera Ku Digital initiative aligns with the objectives of Uganda's National Development Plan by formalising elements of the bodaboda

sector. Enhanced digital integration enables improved tracking of financial flows and urban mobility patterns, while riders benefit from increased earning potential through app-based ride-hailing platforms and reduced vulnerability to digital fraud.

DEDICATED APP

James Beronda, the director of the Uganda Communications Universal Service and Access Fund, said a dedicated mobile application has been introduced to facilitate direct government communication and enable riders to make their services searchable online. Beronda said the initiative aims at building ICT capacity for the safe and effective utilisation of digital tools.

Uganda's bodaboda industry remains one of the country's largest informal employment sectors. Sector digitalisation, stakeholders say, is critical to ensuring inclusivity in Uganda's transition toward a technology-driven economy.

The programme operates through a public-private partnership model, with impact outsourcing delivering

the training framework and Simba Automotives providing technical expertise. Chris Kyerere, the executive director of Impact Outsourcing, said the initiative strengthens the broader national ecosystem by enabling more citizens to participate meaningfully in technological advancement.

During sessions in Mukono and Kajjansi, facilitators underscored the transport sector's strategic importance, saying while it ranks as the second-largest sector in the country, it serves as a primary enabler of agriculture Uganda's leading industry.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: AN INTEGRAL PART

Financial literacy formed a central component of the training. Annet Amongin, a financial inclusion banker, cautioned riders against unsustainable borrowing practices, advising them to avoid loans for non-productive purposes and to exercise due diligence before acting as guarantors.

Bbosa said the initiative marks the beginning of a more connected transport community, positioning bodaboda riders as active participants in Uganda's evolving digital economy.