



TRIPARTITE TRANSPORT AND TRANSIT FACILITATION PROGRAMME (TTTFP)

PRESS STATEMENT

UGANDA BECOMES THE FIRST COUNTRY TO CONVERT DRIVER LICENSING CATEGORIES TO CONFORM TO TTTFP/ISO DRIVER LICENCE CATEGORIES AND DRIVING LICENCE CARD, WHICH ARE BASED ON ISO STANDARDS AND UN ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Uganda is making substantial progress towards the implementation of the harmonised standards agreed to under the Tripartite Transit and Transport Facilitation Programme (TTTFP). The TTTFP is an undertaking of the three Regional Economic Communities in the East and Southern Africa region, namely COMESA, EAC and SADC. TTTFP, a flagship programme under the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement is funded by the European Union under the 11th EDF. The programme addresses cross border transport and trade challenges such as high transport costs and delays through the implementation of harmonised road transport policies, laws, regulations, systems and standards that affect drivers, loads, vehicles and road infrastructure in the countries of the Eastern Africa and Southern Africa (EA-SA) region.

Since the TTTFP Baseline Survey of 2018 on Uganda's level of compliance with the proposed harmonized Tripartite road transport policies, laws, regulations, standards and systems, Uganda has already amended her Traffic and Road Safety Act of 1998, a process that was completed in May 2020, to enable harmonization through inter alia, adoption of the ISO Driver Licence Categories, Driving Licence Card Format and Professional Driving Permit (PrDP). Uganda has redesigned the Driver Licence Card in accordance with the TTTFP standard specification.



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Uganda appreciates the Technical Assistance provided by TTTFP Programme Management Unit in finalizing the design of the Driving Licence Card. Uganda has further gone ahead to obtain a single Issuer Identification Number (IIN) for licensing drivers from American Bankers Association (ABA), which was granted on January 5th, 2021.

In so doing, Uganda becomes the first country, not only in the East African Community, but the Tripartite region to achieve this milestone. Information received from the country indicate that Uganda will without further delay commence issuance of new driver licences based on the TTTFP/ISO standards from the 1st March 2020.

Meanwhile, Uganda is continuing to pursue other measures towards the implementation of TTTFP Vehicle Load Management Agreement (VLMA) and the Multilateral Cross-Border Road Transport Agreement (MCBRTA). In this regard, Uganda has begun the process of updating regulations to operationalize the amended Traffic and Road Safety Act, based on the VLMA/MCBRTA Model Laws and Regulations/Principles. Likewise, Uganda will develop regulations under the Roads Act, 2019 to operationalize the VLMA.

In addition, Uganda has out-sourced the motor vehicle inspection function, by contracting SGS to perform the service on behalf of Government. SGS has already constructed a number of Vehicle Inspection Stations on major routes radiating from Kampala, the capital city. This is a PPP contracting arrangement being promoted by the TTTFP. The standards being applied for the inspections are to a great extent aligned to the TTTFP standards. Furthermore, Uganda will initiate implementation of a framework for an Automated Driver Testing System during the course of this year, 2021. It is anticipated that once this is in place Driving Schools would have to upgrade their systems to ensure that trainees being churned out have the required competencies and skills to pass the driver test. Automated Licensing System for Passenger Service Vehicles (PSVs) is already in existence and regulations are being developed for the implementation of a similar system for Licensing Goods Vehicles. The licensing of Goods Vehicles including Dangerous Goods Vehicles Regulations, are largely adapted from the TTTFP Instruments.

In terms of institutional reform, the recently amended Traffic and Road Safety Act designates the Department responsible for Transport Regulation and Safety in the Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT) as the Competent Authority for among others, registration of motor vehicles. Hitherto, motor vehicle registration in the country was undertaken by the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA). Hence, the transition from URA to MOWT is to take effect this year. The MOWT Motor Vehicle Registration and Licensing System will form the backbone for the **National Transport Information System (NTIS)**, and the development process will be initiated during the Financial Year 2021/2022.

It is envisaged that implementation of NTIS will take approximately two years to complete and will also entail the following: Implementation of a new motor vehicle registration system, the Police Express Penalty System, Automated Licensing System, Road Crash Database System, Driver Licensing System, Demerit point system, etc.

Uganda in the short term will seek to revalidate all motor vehicle records including issuance of new number plates in accordance with Tripartite Road Transport Legal Instruments.

While acknowledging the principle of variable geometry, Uganda has pledged her commitment to make further strides toward the implementation of harmonised road transport policies, laws, regulations, systems and standards of the TTTFP in the medium and long-term.

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Delegates from Tripartite Member/Partner States on a study visit as part of TTTFP workshop on validation of standard design specifications for compliant driver, vehicle and vehicle load management facilities. Workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Works and Transport, Uganda from 18-20 February 2020 in Munyonyo, Uganda.