

STATUS OF DRIVER TESTING IN UGANDA TODAY

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INTRODUCTION

- IF ANYONE IS DESIROUS OF DRIVING ANY TYPE OF VEHICLE IN UGANDA, THEY MUST BE TESTED FOR COMPETENCE FIRST BEFORE A DRIVING PERMIT IS ISSUED IN THAT RESPECT.
 - > The vehicle type and classes that are currently being tested include: A, B, H, CM, CH, DL, DM, DH, G and others
- THE UGANDA POLICE CURRENTLY HOLDS THE MANDATE OF DRIVER TESTING FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF VEHICLES

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- THE DRIVERS ARE TESTED/EXERMINED BY TECHNICAL OFFICERS AT THE INSPECTORATE OF VEHICLES (IOV), ONE OF THE DEPARTMENTS IN THE DIRECTORATE OF TRAFFIC & ROAD SAFETY. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 26 IOVs DEPLOYED IN 17-POLICING REGIONS COUNTRYWIDE.
- THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR INSPECTING VEHICLES AMONG OTHER MANDATES TO FURTHER ENHANCE ROAD SAFETY.

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TRAINING/TESTING PROCESS

- THE PROCESS STARTS WITH ONE MAKING AN APPLICATION TO THE LICENSING OFFICER.
- THEN YOU PAY THE NECESSARY FEES TO URA THROUGH THE BANK.
- PROCEED TO FACE TECHNOLOGY FOR PRINTING OF YOUR PROVISIONAL PERMIT AND YOU ARE READY TO START THE LEARNING PROCESS.

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- IF IN THE OPINION OF THE TRAINER, YOU HAVE BECOME COMPETENT THEN YOU ARE TAKEN TO IOV FOR TESTING.
- AT IOV IT IS MANDATORY TO PRODUCE THE FOLLOWING:
 - a) Valid Provisional Driving permit
 - b) Test Fee receipt for money paid in the Bank
 - c) Certificate of completion of training from driving school.
 - d) Medical form from a practicing Doctor.
 - e) The testee must appear in person to take the driving test.

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- THE TESTING TAKES THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDURE:
 - a) The officer starts by examining your knowledge of the highway code and road procedure. At this point theory questions are asked especially knowledge of road signs and markings and basic mechanics.
 - b) The next phase will be determining your ability to control the vehicle and this is done through box parking for small vehicles and reverse operations for big vehicles.

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- c) Next phase will be going on the road for the practical test. Here things like vehicle positioning, joining junctions and others are tested
- d) If the testee is competent in the opinion the IOV then a Certificate of Competence (CC) is written for the applicant and forwarded to Face technologies for printing of the permit.
- e) The CC is uniquely numbered and has features like Government and IOV Seal, name and signature of testee among others.

Testing form and certificate of competence

A detailed driving assessment form with a header 'NOT FOR SALE' and 'POLICE FORM 22'. It includes a logo and the title 'DRIVING TEST ASSESSMENT FORM'. The form is divided into sections for 'VEHICLE CONTROL' and 'DRIVER PERFORMANCE'. It contains a table with columns for 'GRADE' and 'MARKS'. At the bottom, there are fields for 'TOTAL MARKS' and 'OUT OF 100'.

Sample Driving Assessment Form

A certificate of competence form with a header 'FORM XIV (Police Book 23)'. It features the national emblem of Uganda and the text 'THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA' and 'THE TRAFFIC ACT, 1998 (Section 42 (2))'. The title is 'Certificate of Competency to Drive Motor Vehicle'. The main text reads: 'THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT Mr / Miss / Mrs ... of ... has been tested by me and found competent to drive*'. It includes fields for 'Date', 'Place', 'Receipt No.', and 'Signature'. A red circular seal is visible at the bottom right.

Sample Certificate of Competence

Box Parking Test



Photo of a Learner after successfully parking the vehicle in the Box

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STATISTICS

- CURRENTLY WE ARE TESTING AN AVERAGE OF 1200 DRIVERS PER WEEK FOR VARIOUS CLASSES.
- NOT ALL THE APPLICANTS PASS ON THE FIRST ATTEMPT, SOME PASS IN THE SECOND, SOME IN THE THIRD AND SOME NEVER COME BACK AFTER FAILING.
- THE FOLLOWING ARE DRIVERS THAT WERE TESTED IN THE LAST CALENDER YEAR.

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DRIVERS PASSED IN JAN – DEC 2017

LEARNER DRIVERS TESTED IN THE YEAR 2017 (JAN - DEC 2017).

STATION	CLASS OF PERMIT TESTED											TOTAL	PASSED			
	A	B	CM	CH	DL	DM	DH	E	F	G	H		I	1st TEST	2nd TEST	3rd TEST
NAGURU	1829	30745	3415	591	2366	244	63	24	3	89	240	0	39609	30984	8,001	624
LUGAZI	210	4443	402	0	236	0	0	4	0	20	80	0	5395	3965	1390	40
MPIGI	357	8671	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	34	162	0	9234	8056	1092	86
LUWERO	24	574	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3	0	610	610	0	0
MITYANA	53	1600	20	0	11	0	0	1	0	6	64	0	1755	1375	238	142
MASAKA	98	1492	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1596	790	806	0
IGANGA	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	39	36	3	0
IGANGA													0			
JINJA	111	1018	372	44	203	15	5	0	0	14	58	0	1840	1505	335	0
IMBALE	372	3513	594	0	409	0	0	2	0	12	102	0	5004	3557	1436	11
SOROTI	15	401	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	0	423	280	119	24
IMBARARA	280	4195	499	26	311	14	4	3	0	4	45	0	5381	4146	1157	78
KABALE													0			
FORTPORT	295	2217	274	0	187	0	0	3	0	26	50	0	3052	2322	581	149
ARUA	243	1523	174	0	18	4	0	0	0	1	13	0	1976	1744	230	2
GULU	187	880	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	96	0	1188	1033	155	0
HOIMA	171	1166	377	0	229	0	0	0	0	19	112	0	2074	1482	443	149
LIRA	126	2105	250	0	144	0	0	7	0	14	10	0	2656	2510	146	0
SOROTI													0			
TORORO	14	131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	147	147	0	0
KABALE	36	517	57	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	659	385	231	43
TOTAL	4421	65226	6434	661	4153	277	72	54	3	276	1061	0	82638	64927	16,363	1,348

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CHALLENGES

1. Lack of reserved/adequate testing grounds especially in Kampala.
2. Lack of testing material and logistics like vehicles, computers etc that can be used to test the learners
3. Testing officers/ IOVs geographically distributed at all regional centers in the country but not enough yet.
4. Little and sometimes no training at all for the IOVs. Many of the IOVs are trained on Job and never receive refresher courses at all.

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Challenges Contnd

5. Training curriculum is not followed by driving schools.
6. Ignorance of society about driver training and importance of the training.
7. Incompetent testees are produced for testing by the driving schools.
8. Brokerage in the training and testing process is rampant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Introduce and enforce the training curriculum in the training schools
- 2) Continue empowering IOVs through training and retraining.
- 3) Provide IOV with proper testing grounds, logistical requirements like vehicles, ICT systems and others.
- 4) Need to improve and integrate the communication systems between URA, IOV and Face Technology who prints the Permits.

Recommendations Contnd

- 5) Create systems between Training, Payments, Testing and Printing of driving permits that discourage/eliminate brokerage.

END

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME