

TV documentary scrip by Kweku Bolton

Title:

FATAL CRASHES: GHANA'S ROAD EPIDEMIC THAT KEEPS SHATTERING LIVES.

(This documentary exposes the Road Menace and misery of road accidents)

VTR...SEC...

The heart-wrenching, traumatic, agonizing and excruciating painful experience these victims of road accidents have had can be seen at first sight.

PAUSE

Meet Adams Zakari, a 42-year-old, electronic technician with 4 children.

An Accident nearly took his life but grace Saved him.

Zakari opens up on his difficulties years after the accident.

As a hit and run victim, Zakari's spinal cord, waist and legs had been badly affected. He needs about 70 thousand pounds for surgery. He spends about GHC800 each week on medication. He now lives on the benevolence of people.

PAUSE

A traumatic moment.

PAUSE SND UP.

END CUE.

These are family members, who lost loved ones through road accidents.

PAUSE

In 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported about 1.3 million people were killed on the road while 20 to 50 million got injured globally. The report added that almost half of these people fall into the "vulnerable road users" category. These are pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. Apart from the loss of lives, road accidents eat deep into the pockets of countries including Ghana. Estimates from the Ghana Health Service indicate that 230 million dollars are spent annually in treating road accident

victims. According to the Motto Traffic Transport Department of the Ghana Police Service, road accidents claim more lives than diseases.

PAUSE SND UP

END CUE

For instance, in 2019 over 2,284 perished lives through road crashes, a significant increase from 2018 which recorded 2,020 deaths. Similarly in 2020, 20,408 people were involved in road accidents with 2,080 fatalities and 12,380 injuries. In 2021, 27,616 vehicles were involved in road accidents with 16,182 crashes and 15,935 injuries and 2,970 deaths. Likewise in 2022, 25,754 vehicles were involved in road accidents with 14,960 crashes and 15,690 injuries and 2,373 deaths.

PAUSE SND UP

END CUE

Apart from the bad road network and climatic conditions, other causes of road accidents on some of the roads have been linked to negligence of drivers and mechanical errors. Faulty traffic lights like these ones contribute to road accidents.

PAUSE SND UP

END CUE

Also, faulty street lights, gaping potholes, poor road markings and signs are blamed for road accidents. But the question is, whose duty it is to ensure that these traffic and street lights are functioning properly? In recent years, about 39% of all accidents took place during insufficient roads lighting conditions. Unlit roads pose danger to motorists, pedestrians and cyclists, including threat to security.

SND UP

END CUE

SND UP AT... Road Safety Coordinator, Ghana Highways

On 21st August, 2015, some journalists were involved in an accident while returning from a presidential assignment in the Volta regional capital of Ho. A Ghanaian Times

reporter, Samuel Nuamah lost his life. The rest of the crew sustained various degrees of injury.

PAUSE SND UP

END CUE

The showbiz industry also recorded similar incidents with celebrities including Terry Bonchakah, Ebony, Suzzy Williams, Kwame Owusu Ansah, among others meeting their untimely deaths. Some members of the judiciary and security personnels also suffered similar fate.

SND UP AT...

Experts in the Automobile Engineering shared some vital information on road accidents.

SND UP AT... Auto Engineers- ATU

The Road Safety Act 2012 is against-drink driving but some driver's do otherwise as seen in this secret recording.

SND UP

PAUSE SND UP

(One of the major related factors to road accidents is overloading and drivers of these vehicles often flout road safety regulations.)

SND UP AT... GHA director

With a hidden camera, we found out that some drivers and mechanics mix brake fluids with water while others too use cooking oil in repairing vehicles. However, this practice is frown upon by international standards.

SND UP AT... Mechanic, Eric Mensah explained.

END CUE

What about wrong packing?

SND UP

PAUSE SND UP

A vehicle manufacturers document shows that, vehicles are equipped with 4 brakes to provide utmost safety on the roads, but our checks showed most drivers of commercial vehicles have disconnected 2 of these brakes, posing danger on the roads.

PAUSE SND UP

END CUE

Worn-out tyres affect the performance of vehicles.

SND UP AT. Mechanical Engineers.

Auto mechanics say each vehicle has a prescribed engine oil for use by the manufacturer. Engine oil grade is in the form of an alpha-numeric code and are used for specific driving conditions.

SND UP AT. Auto Engineers

Vision is crucial to driving.

PAUSE SND UP

END CUE

As much as 90 per cent of the information you need while driving is gathered through your eyes. Poor eyesight is a major risk factor for road traffic injuries.

SND UP AT

END CUE

Are Digital Advertising Billboards distraction to Drivers?

SND UP AT. PRO, GHA

END CUE

Smoke from vehicle exhaust pipe is considered as air pollution while experts say it has negative impact on human health and the environment.

SND UP AT... EPA Director and Environmental Scientists.

In a bid to ensure that road accidents are minimised, it is important for both the government and other stakeholders involved in the transport sector to take a critical look at all the causative factors of accidents on our roads.

SND UP AT... Engineers

What is the role of insurance in mitigating challenges that come with road accidents?

SND UP AT... DVLA

Many Bread winners have perished while others have been maimed through road accidents with their dependents struggling to survive. Road accidents occur almost every week and road safety advocate say it's time to ensure that traffic regulations are enforced to reduce the menace.

END CUE AT...

GBCN KB/en END