

UNIVERSITY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA

University of Cape Coast Branch

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For Immediate Release

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Cape Coast. The University Teachers Association of Ghana, University of Cape Coast Branch (UTAG-UCC), has noted with concern the rampant road accidents on the stretch between the University's East and West gates. While expressing our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, we call on the Honourable Central Regional Minister, the Ghana Highway Authority (GHA), the Department of Urban Roads (DUR), the National Road Safety Authority (NRSA), the Motor Traffic and Transport Department (MTTD) of the Ghana Police Service, and the Member of Parliament for Cape Coast North as a matter of urgency to find a lasting solution to this carnage. We request immediate interventions to halt the incessant incidence of road accidents involving staff, students, residents, and visitors approaching the East, Central, and West Gates of the University of Cape Coast on the Cape Coast-Takoradi Highway. For decades, the occurrence of road accidents at these gates has been a critical issue, resulting in numerous fatalities and severe injuries to people using that portion of the highway.

At the East Gate alone, several fatal accidents have been recorded over the last two-and-a-half decades. These tragic events as a result of speeding vehicles have claimed lives and caused severe injuries to security personnel, students and staff of the University. The latest was on June 18, 2024, when a PhD student was knocked down and killed by a speeding driver after he had alighted from a taxi at

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the East Gate. On that same day, a bus collided with a tricycle at the East gate. This calls for an urgent intervention to end the carnage on the road. Even pupils from the University Basic School have not been spared. These accidents continue to create fear, panic and distress among students and staff of the University community.

Based on a comprehensive survey conducted among accident victims, their relatives, eyewitnesses, security officers, and health officials, we request that the following measures be implemented with utmost urgency:

1. **Intensify NRSA Campaigns:** The NRSA should enhance its campaign on safe road crossing behaviours at the University Basic School and within the University Community and also educate parents/caregivers to supervise their children when crossing the highways at the gates. Drivers who ply the road should also be involved.
2. **Enhanced Security Measures:** The University Management should assign additional security personnel, supported by the MTTD, to monitor the three gates and manage errant drivers and passengers.
3. **Check-points:** The MTTD of the Ghana Police Service should mount constant checkpoints at these gates to reduce over speeding by motorists.
4. **Construct speed bumps or rumble strips:** The GHA should construct well-engineered speed ramps to slow down traffic 500 m, 200 m, and 100 m before the gates, similar to those constructed for smaller communities along the Accra-Takoradi highway.
5. **Installation of Traffic Lights:** The GHA should install traffic lights (Pelican crossings) at the three gates to control both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
6. **Provision of Traffic Signs and Signals:** This can control vehicle movement.
7. **Pedestrian Crosswalks:** There should be marked designated pedestrian crosswalks with clear signage and zebra markings for pedestrians at these gates.

8. **Construction of Terminals/Bus Stops:** The University Management, in consultation with the GHA, should construct terminals and bus stops at these gates to prevent indiscriminate parking on the shoulders of the road.
9. **Long-Term Measures:** For the long term, the GHA should construct pedestrian footbridges at the three gates to minimize vehicular-pedestrian interactions and potential accidents.

Timeline: UTAG-UCC is ready to work with all stakeholders to ensure the safety of all road users. We are hopeful that within three months the carnage on this section of the Accra-Takoradi highway would be halted. We call for concerted efforts from all stakeholders to resolve this menace.

In conclusion, we wish to reiterate that our lives are at risk. Any member of the University community could be the next victim of this rampant hazard. UTAG-UCC is of the firm believe that proactive measures proposed could significantly enhance safety for the University community and the general public. All stakeholders must work together to ensure that this stretch of the highway is safe for all road users. **Every Life Matters.**

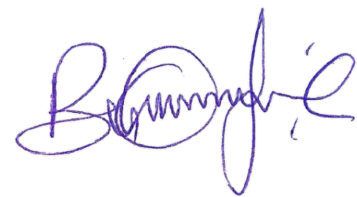
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Dr. Jerry Opoku-Ansah



PRESIDENT

Prof. Isaac Buabeng



SECRETARY