

Toyota Mobility Foundation to create a recommendation to improve vehicle inspection systems and promote safe and sustainable mobility in Africa

Kigali, Rwanda (June 27, 2019) - In support of the Republic of Rwanda's plan to improve road vehicles in the country, the Toyota Mobility Foundation (TMF) has begun research to examine the current national vehicle inspection system. This research will inform a formal recommendation for improvement to the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Government of Rwanda. This recommendation is intended to promote safe and environmentally conscious mobility in Africa.

Africa's economic growth has been accompanied by an increase of vehicles. This increase in the number of vehicles has brought about additional mobility challenges such as air pollution from exhaust of poorly maintained vehicles, discarded damaged vehicles, traffic congestion, and traffic accidents.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO),¹ the mortality rate due to traffic accidents in Rwanda was 29.7 people per 100,000 people in 2016, ranking 17th out of 174 countries. A contributing factor to road traffic accidents includes insufficient vehicle maintenance, and as the number of vehicles in the country continues to rise, there is an opportunity to improve Rwanda's vehicle inspection system. Furthermore, appropriate management of the vehicle life cycle guided by a functioning inspection system is an important factor of sustainability and a common challenge across Africa.

In an effort to support both safety and sustainability, TMF is already collaborating with the Government of Rwanda and a team of locally-based specialists to assess the current vehicle inspection system. This research will conclude in September 2019 and then will formulate a recommendation to guide the Ministry of Infrastructure in the creation of their master plan.

Elements of research and the recommendation for improvement

- Research updates for the vehicle registration database
- Identify issues within the current vehicle inspection system and propose a new and improved system
- Develop a phased plan to introduce the new vehicle inspection system and create a standard operation manual
- Create a training plan and instructional material to equip vehicle inspectors
- Propose an action plan to launch the new vehicle inspection system nationwide

The final recommendation will be shared on the TMF website in order to support other countries in Africa and around the world.

¹ WHO Road traffic deaths- Data by country: <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.A997>

About the Toyota Mobility Foundation

The Toyota Mobility Foundation was established in August 2014 to support the development of a more mobile society. The Foundation aims to support strong mobility systems while eliminating disparities in mobility. It utilizes Toyota's expertise in technology, safety, and the environment, working in partnership with universities, governments, non-profit organizations, research institutions and other organizations to address mobility issues around the world. Programs include resolving urban transportation problems, expanding the utilization of personal mobility, and developing solutions for next generation mobility.

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