



## **Engagement with Road Safety Stakeholders to Support BAC Reduction Advocacy to Reducing Road Crashes**

### **Background and Rationale**

Road traffic accidents are a major health problem globally. Statistics from WHO in June 2022 indicates that approximately 1.3 million people die each year as a result of road traffic crashes. 93% of the world's fatalities on the roads occur in low- and middle-income countries. Meanwhile road traffic crashes cost most countries 3% of their gross domestic product. Ghana is not left out of the doldrums of road traffic accidents. The country is touted to be among the African countries grappling with road traffic crashes.

Several factors account for road crash accidents but one of the leading causes in Ghana is drunk-driving or driving under the influence of alcohol. However, studies have shown that accidents and deaths occurring from drunk driving depends on the content of alcohol in a driver's blood which is generally referred to as blood alcohol concentration (BAC). BAC is the measurement of the level of alcohol in the blood and is most commonly used to assess the degree of alcohol intoxication. The effects are often observed when it comes to the judgement of moving objects and the processing of different information at the same time.

Research has shown that the risk of a fatal accident occurring under the influence of alcohol increases significantly at 0.050mg/ml and above. At this level, all drivers are said to be impaired regarding driving performance. As such most countries across the globe have revised their BAC limit from 0.08% to 0.050% due to the little increase in crash risk at 0.05 BAC limit.

Government through the Ministry of Transport in 2021 initiated process to bring Ghana's road traffic laws and regulations in tune with international best practices. Among the proposed reforms include the reduction of the current BAC level from 0.008mg/ml to 0.005mg/l. Whilst the process is a government led, there is the need for all stakeholders within the road safety ecosystem to support the initiative and to pledge their/our commitment to the process. It is therefore imperative to rally various stakeholders to support the process.

## **Why December?**

During the Christmas festivities, there is a significant increase of travels. Transport operators overspeed because they want to cash in on the increased demand for transportation thereby embarking on more trips. This lead to reckless driving resulting in road crashes. There is also an increase in merry making, parties, gatherings among others during the period. The data from the statistical servcie indicates the volume of alcohol consumed during the Christmas period has consistantly been on the high side. This also probably shows the corellation and or association between increased alcohol consumption and road crashes.

It is in this light, that CUTS is partnering with the National Road Safety Authority (NRSA) to embark on an advocacy campaign to get the buy-in of the proposed revision from key road safety stakeholders including, Transport Unions, Truck and Bus Driver's Representative, Taxi & Motorbikes Association, Ride Sharing Companies (Uber, Bolt, Yango), Transport Owners, accident victims and CSOs and private sector organization.

The meeting would also use to sensitize road users on best road safety practices and policies including drunk-driving and overspeeding

## **Objective of the Engagement**

The objective of the engagement is to promote positive behavioural change by emphasizing on the importance of best road safety practices and policies including support for BAC revision among road users especially during this festive season.

## **Targeted Participants**

- CSOs and Private Sector Coalitions
- CSOs Platform on Road Safety
- Accident Victims' Asscoaition
- Transport Unions
- Truck and Bus Driver's Representative
- Taxi & Motorbikes Association
- Ride Sharing Companies (Uber, Bolt, Yango)
- Transport Owners
- All road Users

## **Expected Outcome:**

A signed committment to support the BAC limit reduction.

Ahead of the program, CUTS and NRSA will meet with the targeted stakeholders and discuss the proposed amendment and how they should support the government for starting the process

**Engagement with CSOs and Other Road Safety Stakeholders to Support BAC  
Reduction Advocacy**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Venue: Osu Presby Hall, Accra**

**Time: 9am-12noon**