

Bodaboda cyclists warned about HIV, road safety

HOIMA

By Lawrence Mulondo

Bodaboda cyclists should not only protect their lives with helmets, but with condoms as well, the Hoima district chairperson, George Bagonza Tinkasimire, has warned.

“We do not want to lose you before you enjoy the fruits of oil extraction in the region. You should either be faithful to your partners or use condoms, where necessary,” he said.

Bagonza made the remarks while handing over 191 helmets and 191 reflective jackets to bodaboda cyclists from Buseruka, Busenyi, Kabaale, Kigaaga and Nyamasoga at Nyamasoga Primary School recently.

He said the helmets will save the lives of youth that ride bodabodas.

Bagonza advised the cyclists to respect traffic rules and plan for their lives if they are to succeed in life.

Richard Opakrwoth, the



Bodaboda cyclists receiving helmets and reflective jackets. Photos by L. Mulondo

chairperson of Kabale United Bodaboda Stage, said the cyclists understand the importance of helmets and reflective jackets, but many do not buy them.

He added that those that

acquire the items, buy cheap ones, which are usually of poor quality.

“Many of our colleagues suffer head injuries during accidents as a result of wearing cheap and

poor quality helmets,” he said.

What Police says

The Police spokesperson for the Albertine region, Julius Allan Hakiza, concurred with

WHAT CYCLISTS SAY



Joseph Odong, Busenyi stage: I had a helmet, however, it was too old, which put my life at risk. With the new one, I will ride with confidence.



Justus Kirungi, Kabaale stage: The helmets will help protect us from the cold as well as noise on the road.

Opakrwoth, saying that cyclists do not wear helmets.

“Whenever we try to sensitise the riders on road safety, politicians politicise the exercise and also brand the operations as harassment,” Hakiza said.

Hakiza warned the cyclists against reckless riding, adding that even if one is wearing a helmet, they can get an accident if they do not respect traffic laws.

Donation

While handing over the helmets and reflective jackets, SBC operations manager Dotan Hameiri said as a company, they put a lot of emphasis on safety, especially at workplaces and on the road.

“Accidents happen as a result of mistakes made on the road. Everyone should act

responsibly while on the road to protect other road users,” he said.

Justus Balyesiima, the Nyamasoga LCI chairperson, urged bodaboda cyclists to always have their helmets on while on the road for the sake of their lives in case of accidents.

Buseruka sub-county chief Solomon Businge reiterated Bagonza’s message on the use of condoms, saying that Uganda is not yet HIV/AIDs free.

“Bodaboda cyclists should actively join the fight against the transmissiion of HIV by remaining faithful to their partners or using condoms while with other sexual partners,” Balyesiima said.

At the same event, SBC donated scholastic materials and a water tank to the pupils of Nyamasoga Primary School.