

The Guardian February 15 2026

Pg 1.

MPs want LATRA to make detailed audits of vehicle tracking, revenue

By Guardian Reporter

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) needs to carry out a comprehensive audit of systems designed to curb revenue loss and prevent tampering with vehicle tracking devices (VTDs), legislators have demanded. Johnston Mutasingwa, acting chairman of the Infrastructure standing committee of the National Assembly, issued this instruction when committee members visited LATRA regional offices in the capital on Monday to assess the regulator agency's performance, operational systems and take up of regulatory changes.

Expressing concern over repeated interference with installed systems for vehicle tracking, he affirmed that the government had introduced multiple mechanisms to strengthen

revenue collection and improve road safety.

Yet some individuals undermine the efforts by tampering with vehicle tracking and speed-limiting devices, he said, underlining the committee's readiness to institute a review with a view to amending existing legislation to curb ambiguities and strengthen enforcement.

"Interference with speed-governing systems installed in commercial vehicles is a serious matter. It threatens public safety and must be addressed immediately. We have instructed LATRA and other relevant authorities to intensify oversight to ensure these systems, installed at significant public expense, are protected from misuse," he stated.

Urging stricter law enforcement, where

TURN TO PAGE 2

MPs want LATRA to make detailed audits of vehicle tracking, revenue

FROM PAGE 1

penalties are severe enough to deter misconduct, he said that the police, LARTA, and other authorities need to work closely on the matter. "Where gaps exist in the law or in regulations the committee will provide guidance and propose amendments to ensure effective service delivery and public safety," he declared.

As the committee acknowledged LATRA's progress in improving road safety, citing reductions in accidents and enhanced public access to travel information, LATRA director general Habibu Suluo said that the authority has successfully implemented an electronic ticketing system for upcountry bus services in line

with the 2024 Electronic Ticketing Regulations.

"Passengers can now access travel information, compare operators, departure times and fares, paying for tickets electronically using smartphones," he said, pointing at the 'safari ticket Tanzania' mobile application/

It is available on major app stores as an integrated platform enabling travellers across the country to purchase tickets instantly and receive confirmation digitally, as passengers travelling between regional centres can now book, pay and receive tickets without relying on cash transactions. This improves transparency and accountability across the sector, he stated.

Last December more than 3.1m

passengers used electronic ticketing, generating 110bn/- in revenue in fully traceable digital transactions, he said, applauding the system as having transformed the bus transport sector.

It previously relied on large cash payments with limited traceability but regulators now have significantly improved oversight, transparency and accountability, meanwhile as ten companies successfully met requirements to provide digital ticketing for city buses as well, he further noted.

The reforms are a critical step in modernising land transport, strengthening regulatory supervision and enhancing road safety while ensuring passengers benefit from more efficient and reliable services, he added.

MOFAT urges BRT lanes protection

By SUSAN MMARY

THE Board of Directors of MOFAT has called for stricter enforcement of dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes to improve service, reliability and financial sustainability, following an inspection tour of operations and key routes.

Board Chairperson Mr Gaudence Temu said the visit aimed to assess operational performance, infrastructure utilisation and challenges affecting daily service delivery, with particular focus on the

invasion of BRT lanes by unauthorised road users.

"The purpose of today's tour was to examine the operational challenges we are facing as a company and determine how best to address them. We wanted to see the real situation on the ground and engage directly with staff," he said.

He noted that although the company has invested heavily in its fleet, with about 200 buses, but not all are currently operational due to constraints linked to traffic congestion

and misuse of BRT infrastructure.

Mr Temu explained that BRT lanes were specifically designed for rapid buses to ensure uninterrupted movement and reliable schedules, but frequent intrusion by motorcycles, tricycles and private vehicles has reduced efficiency.

"This infrastructure was meant exclusively for rapid buses so that passengers can travel quickly without delays. When other vehicles enter these lanes, operations

slow down and schedules are disrupted," he said.

According to him, inconsistent trip times negatively affect both, customer satisfaction and business performance, as prolonged delays increase operating costs and reduce fleet productivity.

Despite the challenges, he commended government support and ongoing collaboration with traffic police, noting that enforcement efforts have helped, though more consistent control is still needed.

"We appreciate the cooperation we receive from the authorities. The infrastructure is good and enforcement efforts are in place, but tighter control will yield even better results," he added.

During the tour, the board also reviewed route performance along the Mbagala-Kipunguni, Mbagala-Gerezani and Mbagala-Morocco corridors, where passenger demand continues to grow.

Mr Temu said future fleet expansion and redeployment will be guided by passenger

demand patterns to enhance efficiency and service coverage.

He identified the Keko stretch as one of the main pressure points due to heavy truck traffic and narrow road sections, calling for targeted interventions to ease congestion.

Mr Temu further urged passengers to support service quality by adhering to boarding procedures, using travel cards and safeguarding public transport assets.

"We thank our custom-

ers for their continued trust. They should follow queue procedures and help us protect the buses. We remain open to feedback and recommendations," he said.

Board member Mr Andrew Chenge described the inspection as timely and constructive, commending the company's leadership and staff for sustaining operations despite the challenges.

He said the board is taking a solution-oriented approach and working closely with management to strengthen

systems, accountability and service standards.

"The commitment shown by management and staff is commendable. With continued enforcement, stakeholder cooperation and operational improvements, the rapid bus service will become even more dependable and efficient," he said.

Mr Chenge added that the board remains focused on long-term improvements aimed at enhancing commuter experience and safeguarding public transport investments.