



Save The Nation

MEMBER OF THE



Global Alliance of  
NGOs for Road Safety

Save the Nation (SNA)  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Mr. Bitew Demmelash  
General Manager  
Sheger City Bus

## **Ref: Open letter to Sheger City Bus on the increasing road safety poor record**

Save the Nation (SNA) is the Nation's leading road safety charity, Over the years, we have supported the Government to take concrete action for safer roads, and reduce the tragedy of deaths and injuries on Ethiopia's roads. Our central mission is to make Ethiopia's roads safe, accessible, and enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities.

Just like any concerned citizen, we are deeply concerned about the continued unabated road accidents involving your buses. And this letter is in response to the recent accident involving one of your buses which happened this month on 28th Dec 2020 in Mekanissa Area But this was just one of many road accidents involving your buses happening on regular basis. We are highly disappointed by the missed opportunities to advance road safety in your company and the many lives lost or severely altered because you have failed to learn from your previous mistakes. In each of those road accidents, involving your buses, there has been strong evidence of lax road safety adherence, inaction, and failure to protect road users on many levels.

SNA is disturbed that every time one of your buses is involved in a tragic incident, the blame is put on your drivers, while you continue operating. But you as the owner, benefiting from the business, you must, as far as possible, make sure that neither employees (drivers) nor anyone else (passengers) is put at risk by your transport activities. Why do you always blame the drivers whom you hire? They must be skilled and trained but also controlled to ensure ever higher safety, as safety remains the number one characteristic of bus and coach transport. Your drivers are required to be in peak condition, rested and fit, to ensure the passengers in their care are never let down.

You must know that bus drivers are a special group of professional motorists that differ markedly from the population of car drivers in ways that are likely to affect their crash risk. They assume the added pressure of responsibility for passengers' lives driving large, heavy buses that are constantly pulling in and out of traffic, sometimes in mostly built-up areas. They do much higher annual mileage than private drivers. Things such as bus schedules are likely to exert a strong influence on their driving behavior.

SNA is appealing to your conscious on the negative impact you as an individual is having on people's lives and the legacy you want to be remembered for. The profit motive of your operations is destroying not only lives but also public spirit, dignity, property, and national development efforts. The physical

damage is destroying victims' mentality and spiritual strength for both the victims and their family members who are indirect victims. Your business has left many children to become orphans due to the deaths of their parents, and this circumstance shapes their future lives. This tragic status quo needs to change.

Please do everything in your power or seek advice to avoid this to happen in the future. Accidents are preventable and avoidable.

As SNA, we are willing to support you in avoiding this by improving the road safety of your organization.

Please consider this letter as a piece of friendly advice.

Yours sincerely,

Mesganaw Bimrew  
Executive Director  
Cc Minister of Transport Ethiopia  
Cc Mayor Office of Addis Ababa  
Cc Addis Ababa Traffic Management Agency  
Cc Addis Ababa Transport Bureau  
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