

# DN2 Motoring



## Inside:

### SCHOOL TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS



Shopping for a school bus?  
Go for brands that promise  
efficiency, comfort and  
reliability.

## ‘Unfixable Weakness’? Get another mechanic...

Gavin comes to the aid of a motorist whose car has a chronic case of fan belts that keep getting damaged PLUS: A Suzuki street car that does its job well **P.2**

According to the Economic Survey 2022, the number of schools in the country is increasing significantly

# Let's all work together to create a safer school transport system



Along with the quality of education, transport services have become a priority for parents when searching for the best school for their children.

BY EVANS ONGWAE

School transport is here to stay. The challenge is how to enhance safety, efficiency, comfort and reliability, so that each day, children enjoy a better ride to and from school. There is, therefore, a

need to keep improving it to keep our children safer.

Each weekday when school is in session, thousands of children ride school buses to and fro school. Naturally, parents worry about the safety of their children while sending them to school. That's perhaps the key reason why they

choose a school that is closest to their residence. Along with the quality of education and other better facilities, transport services have become one of the priorities of parents when searching for the best school for their children.

In this information age and era of Big Data, better use of

technology and data can drive school transport to a whole new level. For example, can schools use cellphones, geographical positioning system (GPS) and in-bus monitors to boost the comfort and safety of the children – and

Continued on Page 4



Are you looking for a solution to streamline your school's transportation process in 2023?

## Pick-up & drop-off kids

Safely

Conveniently

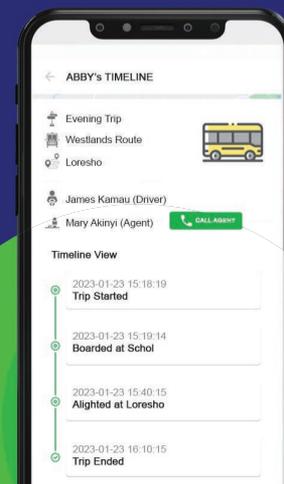
Look no further than Bunifu Go, an all in one transport and attendance system that offers efficient scheduling and route management, a built-in communication platform, and real-time reporting.

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Contact us at [hello@bunifugo.com](mailto:hello@bunifugo.com) or call +254 758 59 29 49. To learn more, visit [www.bunifugo.com](http://www.bunifugo.com).



You can Do More with **Bunifu Go** School Transport App

**ENROLL YOUR SCHOOL TODAY!**

# ISUZU



CFG is an Isuzu East Africa Limited appointed dealer for all Isuzu vehicle sales, after sales and body-building for buses and trucks. Whenever a CFG Label appears, a state of the art vehicle body is evidently designed with strength and flexibility essential for the African local road conditions to last longer.

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- After you submit the form, we'll be in touch to confirm your service appointment.
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UPTO

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We are happy to be associated with Private and Public schools countrywide.

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Continued from Page 3

even school staff – riding each bus daily?

Even Government agencies, especially the National Transport Safety Authority (NTSA), can use data to inform the public about accident-prone stretches of specific roads. Such information can be useful to school drivers and authorities in preventing accidents.

Unicef, in its publication, 'Guidance for Safe and Healthy Journeys To School During The Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond', calls for use of "evidence-based low-cost infrastructure such as bollards, speed humps or raised crosswalks, and/or enforcement, such as placing speed cameras at locations that data have shown are prone to frequent collisions."

The UN body urges drivers to "reduce speeds to 30 km per hour or less. Higher speeds pose the greatest threat to children because of their small bodies and unpredictable behaviour."

It adds that if permanent reduction is not possible, school bus drivers should reduce speeds

during drop-off and pick-up. Unicef further calls for public education about speed reduction through school zone signs, pedestrian crossing signs, slow down markings and billboards.

A safer school transport system is the responsibility of diverse stakeholders, not just schools and parents, and it is in the interest of motor dealers to share with other stakeholders their research on how to improve the school transport system.

As time passes, more school buses join road traffic. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) regularly conducts economic surveys. Its Economic Survey of 2022 revealed that the number of schools in the country is increasing significantly. In the 2021 school year, for instance, the total number of schools grew by 1.4 percent, while the number of registered pre-primary schools increased from 46,652 in 2020 to 46,671 in the same year. The growth, according to expert analysis, is even much wider among private schools.

In essence, this growth and the advent of Junior High schools in

Kenya's school system provides an opportunity to supply more buses for school transport.

These days, most schools have fleets of buses to provide pick-up and drop facilities to their students, and, in some cases, staff. Other schools could be planning to buy buses or vans. Naturally, schools make all the necessary efforts to implement essential measures to ensure children's safety, especially while travelling on school buses.

However, managing a fleet of school buses can be a major challenge, but using the right aids, school administrators can sleep easy knowing that they will not suffer unnecessary costs or total loss of a bus. The challenge is how to operate efficiently and deliver good service while dealing with driver turnover and rising costs. Without adequate care, school fleet assets can quickly become liabilities.

Fuel, insurance, maintenance and repair costs represent significant expenses to schools that own fleets of vehicles. However, with the right combination of ingenuity and prudence, it is possible to keep many of these costs in check.

It starts with the vehicle model or brand where it may be necessary to lease or purchase new, more fuel-efficient vehicles. Schools can work closely with motor dealers to get just the right type of vans or buses that suit their situation. For example, would the needs of urban schools be different compared to those in rural areas?

Schools also enjoy savings through consistent vehicle maintenance. Well-maintained buses perform more efficiently than damaged or neglected ones.

Simple measures, such as proper tyre inflation as well as regular tune-ups, oil changes and fuel and air filter changes all contribute significantly to optimal vehicle performance, thereby saving fuel and lessening the chance of costlier vehicle repairs.

Schools also need to consider whether they need to install monitoring cameras in each bus. These devices can help them monitor bus locations. Should drivers change bus routes without the approval of school administrators, the cameras can provide evidence.

## myride

SCHOOL BUS

### The Smart School Transport Management System

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FOR PARENTS

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# We tick all the boxes that every school needs in a bus or van

**C**FAO Motors is the leading mobility solution provider through multi-brand distribution of cars, trucks, and buses in Kenya. Since our first office establishment in 1962, we have remained committed to the Kenyan story and evolved to become a formidable force of reliability in the motor vehicle industry.

Among our automobile offerings, we pride ourselves in providing spacious, comfortable, safe buses and vans for schools, for teachers' or students' transportation.

We understand the need for safe, fuel-efficient, and comfortable vehicles to transport learners and their teachers across the country. The different terrains, road conditions, and capacity, also inform our offering for school transport.

Innovation is at the heart of CFAO motors. We continue to improve and add new features to our Hino buses and Hiace vans to meet the changing customer needs.

The van is specially designed to provide a fatigue-free driving experience on long journeys, thanks to the ergonomic design of its seats. It also meets the safety requirements, particularly with driver and

passenger airbags and anti-lock braking systems (ABS) that help the driver steer in emergencies by restoring traction to the tires.

The Hiace van offers excellent fuel efficiency, superior comfort, safety and convenience, and a warranty of 60 months or 150,000km, whichever comes first.

In the bus category, we have Hino school buses, which are a popular choice among schools in Kenya due to their reliable performance, safety features, and low cost of ownership.

Hino buses are designed to meet school transportation needs, with features such as large seating capacity, seat belts, grilled windows, and large emergency escape doors. They come already painted in the approved yellow colour.

The Hino school buses are powered by diesel engines designed for long-term durability and low maintenance costs, which help to keep operating expenses down for the schools. The buses are powerful enough to climb hilly areas well.

In addition to their safety and performance features, Hino school buses offer students a comfortable ride. The



Hino Buses come fitted with an increased suspension span for ride comfort. The buses also feature large windows, providing students with plenty of natural light and good visibility. They are available in 29, 31, and 51-seater capacities.

Both the Toyota Hiace vans and the Hino buses tick all the boxes that every school management is looking for:

**1. Safety features:** The vehicles have all the necessary safety features, such as seat belts, emergency exits, and fire

suppression systems.

**2. Size and capacity:** We make vehicles that are the right size for the needs of schools in Kenya, and which can accommodate the number of passengers you expect to transport.

**3. Fuel efficiency:** The vehicles are fuel efficient, thus saving fuel costs.

**4. Price and financing:** Our prices are competitive, with a wide range of financing options for schools.

## SAFETY AND COMFORT ASSURED

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- Built with high safety standards
- Warranty of 24 months or 100,000 km whichever comes first

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You Will Love The **CFAO MOTORS** Experience

## TWEENDE SHULE SAFELY AND COMFORTABLY

**THE HIACE VANS OFFER:**

- Excellent fuel efficiency
- Superior comfort, safety & convenience
- Quality, Durable and Reliable
- Warranty of 60 months or 150,000 km whichever comes first

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You Will Love The **CFAO MOTORS** Experience

# Did you know Easy Coach offers tailored school transport too?

BY EVANS ONGWAE

The Easy Coach brand is renowned in the transport industry. It has been a fulfilling two decades for the company that continues to supersede limitations through veritable innovations and growth.

There is another side to the proclaimed long-distance bus firm that not many people know about. When schools are in session, Easy Coach buses offer safe, comfortable rides to more than 1,500 children in Nairobi. Even as they offer scheduled PSV services, they also provide custom-tailored transportation for schools.

For example, the company's school opening and closing transport service is second to none, as it runs an App that is designed to group-book students from the same school. This way, they take the unbearable headache off the parents as they deliver everyone to

their respective schools.

For the day-to-day school transport services, Easy Coach buses pick learners from as early as 6am and return them to their homes in the evening.

Managing Director, Azym Dossa, says his firm has witnessed growing demand for its buses, especially by schools in Nairobi. He attributes this encouraging demand to a

**"We have been offering school transportation services for years now, with some of the clients on our portfolio including some top private schools in Nairobi"**

Azym Dossa, Easy Coach Managing Director

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need by schools and Easy Coach's long experience in the transport sector.

Mr Dossa explains that the concept of schools outsourcing Easy Coach buses is not new. "We have been offering school transportation services for years now, with some of the clients on our portfolio including some top private schools in Nairobi," says the Easy Coach MD.

He adds: "We hire out our buses to schools to ease their burden when it comes to certain logistics that come with owning a school bus."

The model that has worked seamlessly with a number of schools is whereby the schools hire the buses for the entire term, while others go a step further and hire them for the whole school calendar.

The company, in simple words, handles the encumbrance that come with owning a school bus. A lot of logistics are usually involved, and the company is always up to

the task to bear the burden.

During a journey, anything can happen, and if one of their buses breaks down along the way, the company dispatches another one as fast as possible to ensure the passengers resume their trip.

Easy Coach epitomises matters to do with safety and compliance in its daily activities. The drivers are officially listed and approved by the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA). All the buses are fitted with safety belts, and the company has stringent security and safety measures to ensure children are safe at all times.

Mr Dossa says schools can hire Easy Coach buses not just for daily transportation, but also for special trips, as and when they arise.

Easy Coach has won many road safety awards, and this is only but a mere testament of their astounding work over the years. As they strive for excellence in the PSV world, several independent umpires in the industry have taken notice. A huge cabinet is laid out in their office containing a archive of trophies and accolades they have won over the years.

The award for "Best Bus Company" from Road Safety Plus has been theirs since 2005. Other awards in their treasure trove are AKI's "Road Safety Award, KRA Tax Compli-

ance commendation, Superbrands commendation, and Global Fleet Champions award, to mention but a few.

The company has also participated in many road safety campaigns over the years, a recent one being in December of last year during the busy festive period.

When it comes to transporting children to school, trust between parents and the transport agency, in this case, Easy Coach, is critical. The bus firm has built its foundation on trust and hard work. It is that trust that allows some parents to let their children travel on Easy Coach buses, unaccompanied.

Easy Coach is ready to offer transportation services and to ensure the children get to their destination with dignity, safety and comfort assured.

A recent case that left many with positive reactions is when a mother let her eight-year-old son travel unaccompanied on an Easy Coach bus. Once she was done with her errands, she went back for her son who was eager to tell her how his day had gone.

This is just a glimpse of what you get to experience with the transport company.

[seongwae@ke.nationmedia.com](mailto:seongwae@ke.nationmedia.com)

**easycoach**  
 experience dignity



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For school transportation services think **easycoach**, where safety and comfort is our priority.

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EasyCoachLtd

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