

SCRIPT LADY MEKANIKA

(c) Ruud Elmendorp
Video Journalist Africa
<http://videojournalist.nl>
ruud.elmendorp@videojournalist.nl
+254 736 746 312

INTRODUCTION

To teach women how to repair cars, and have them encourage men to drive more safely. That's the aim of a group of young women in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. They started to receive training in how to maintain and to repair motor vehicles. This seems badly needed since according to the World Health Organization Kenya ranks among the highest in the world concerning deadly road accidents. The Kenyan government is trying for years now to improve the situation, but big results are yet to come. Meanwhile on ground women are tired of all the accidents, and started to invade a traditional men's world.

BETA LENGTH 3:38

SHOTS:

- Donna Mulingi fixing a break
- Wide Donna Mulingi fixing a break
- Wide compound with car and ladies in uniform

VOICE OVER

Donna Mulingi is 25-years old and here in a Nairobi garage she's practicing with fixing the brakes of a car. She's among 25 women who are learning car repairs through the local organization Lady Mekanika.

SOUNDBITE CLUTCH WITH TEACHER

SHOT:

- Teacher demonstrating gear box

VOICE OVER

The girls are trained in several technical skills.

QUOTE ANTON WAINANA, teacher

Highlights are fitting the engine, fitting the wheel bearings, breaks.

SOUNDBITE FIXING ENGINE BLOCK BY DONNA MULINGI

The car had a problem. The engine with the oil, so we want to see what the problem is. If it's the gasket, the lubrication had a problem.

SHOT:

- *Walking to minibus with broken front wind screen*

VOICE OVER

The ladies also fix cars that were involved in an accident.

QUOTE DONNA MULINGI

It's a Nissan and it had very many people inside, just because of careless driving.

SHOT:

- *Driving shot on Kenyan highway*

VOICE OVER

Road safety is a big issue in Kenya. According to the Kenya Roads Authority 3,000 people yearly die in road accidents. That's among the highest in the world. Through their training Donna and the other ladies hope to emit a spark of change.

QUOTE DONNA AT OTHER ACCIDENT CAR

We don't want to lose more lives in Kenya. Because of road accidents, no. We should be conscious about ourselves and our lives. That's why I want people to be concerned about road safety, and take safety precautions. Like wearing a belt. People just ignore that.

SHOT:

- *Driving shot on Kenyan highway*

VOICE OVER

The government of Kenya is trying to improve the roads, but according to the ladies the habits of the drivers have to change, and in Kenya these are usually men.

QUOTE DONNA MULINGI

Kenyan men are driving carelessly. They are not adhering to road safety. They are endangering our lives. Our kids and kids have a lifespan of a long period.

SHOT:

- *Donna inspecting rear of minibus*

VOICE OVER

So Donna is surely planning to convert her husband into a gentleman in traffic.

QUOTE DONNA MULINGI

He has to think about me, our kids, and about himself. If he leaves me at this age it's not good. So he has to drive carefully.

SHOT:

- *Tilt up of women repairing car to group of men seated*

VOICE OVER

While the ladies are training, men are watching from a distance. To women invading their territory, but some say they got used.

QUOTE man

It's a cultural belief. They believe ladies can't work but we see them do the work better.

SHOT:

- *Tilt down from teacher to women inspecting engine block*

VOICE OVER

Their teacher is definitely convinced of the skills of his ladies.

QUOTE ANTON WAINANA

Ladies are better than men.

- *Why?*

I can say it to you. They concentrate faster than men.

SHOT:

- *Donna inspecting engine block*

VOICE OVER

Having tasted the fruits of automobiles, Donna is dedicating her future to it.

QUOTE DONNA MULINGI

My dream is this job is to recruit more women, and to have my own spare part workshop. To be a self employed woman. I'll employ myself. I won't like to be employed by anyone. That's my dream.

SHOTS:

- *Linda Wafula talking to students of Lady Mekanika*

VOICE OVER

The founder of Lady Mekanika's is Lindy Wafula. She hopes the ladies will continue to care about road safety.

QUOTE LINDY WAFULA

They know the dangers of using equipment like a car, because a car is equipment. I believe they will send the message back home, their households, their husbands and even the community.

SHOT:

- *Girls walking on garage compound*

VOICE OVER

The training takes six months, and then the ladies could become a permanent presence on this Nairobi garage park.

ENDS