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## GUARDIANS OF THE ROAD

*Inside Kenya's Bold Movement For Safer Roads*

### Road Safety

**Full list of Winners for the AA Road Safety Excellence Awards**  
**First Aid Corner: What to do at a crash scene**

### Motor News

**Tapelifting: What it is and Why it Matters**  
**Meet the Young Drivers Taking on Kenya's Toughest Terrain**

### Events

**2025 Africa Concours d'Elegance**  
**Africa's Best Young Driver Contest to Debut in Kenya**



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# AFRICA BEST YOUNG DRIVER CHAMPIONSHIP



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# THE UNSEEN FORCE: CELEBRATING THE GUARDIANS OF OUR ROADS



It gives me great pleasure to address you in this special Q3 edition of Autonews Magazine, titled 'Guardians of the Road.'

For too long, the story of our roads has been one of sober statistics and tragic headlines, with over 4,000 lives lost annually in Kenya. Beyond the numbers, a different narrative is being written, one of courage, innovation, and an unyielding commitment to safety.

As AA Kenya, our mission has always been more than just a quick fix on the roadside. It's about a culture. A force of unseen heroes working tirelessly to ensure that every journey ends safely. Let's shine a spotlight to the unsung heroes and their impactful initiatives.

## Celebrating the unseen heroes

This issue builds on the incredible momentum generated by the inaugural AA Road Safety Excellence Awards held in July. The stories shared through our national call for entries were not just nominations; they were inspiring accounts of dedication, passion and vision. They reminded us that amidst the sobering statistics of road accidents, there are beacons of hope, individuals and organisations actively working to turn the tide. As you read through the pages of this magazine, you will discover these changemakers, the innovators, the advocates, and the champions. You will learn about best practices that can be replicated

and partnerships that can be forged.

You will learn about the **best practices being implemented by Matatu SACCOs**, such as rigorous driver selection and recruitment processes that include drug testing and supervised probation periods.

You will also see how **corporates from the manufacturing, financial, and insurance sectors** are integrating safety into their core operations, with insurance companies using innovative product portfolios like usage-based insurance that adjusts premiums based on driver behaviour.

**Universities and colleges** are emerging as key drivers of road safety. Recognizing the threat to young adults, these institutions are combining academic research with practical, student-led initiatives.

You'll meet **Inspector Kennedy Njuguna**, recipient of the Traffic Base Commander of the Year Award. He has achieved a documented reduction in road crash statistics within his jurisdiction by expertly balancing law enforcement with community engagement. Through comprehensive awareness campaigns at schools and marketplaces, and fostering multi-agency coordination, he has proven how strategic partnerships can create a safer road culture.

You'll also read about the phenomenal work of Engineer Mary Abungu, who was awarded the Road Safety Champion of the Year. She has led impactful advocacy initiatives, including a national workshop to address road safety data challenges and initiating a formal dialogue with the NTSA to empower youth in shaping policy. Her efforts exemplify how data-informed interventions and stakeholder collaboration are creating a culture of vigilance and responsibility.

## Driving a Safer Future, Together

At AA Kenya, we are committed to leading this change. This commitment is visible in our continued investment in initiatives like the **Africa Best Young Driver Competition**, a youth-focused program that ignites a passion for vehicles and, more importantly, a dedication to safety among our youth. But we know that no single organization can solve this challenge alone.

Our success is built on a foundation of strategic partnerships that are perfectly suited to the Kenyan market. The road ahead is long, but with every guardian who steps up, with every collaborative effort, and with every story of success we share, we move closer to our goal. Thank you for joining us on this journey. Let us all be guardians of the road.

**Francis Theuri**  
Group Managing Director - AA Kenya



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## Africa's First Best Young Driver Contest to debut in Kenya

By Timothy Albrite

**N**aivasha, Kenya, will host a historic moment for road safety and youth empowerment when the African Best Young Driver Contest 2025 takes place on 2 November, proudly organized by AA Kenya in collaboration with the FIA.

This will be the first time Africa stages its own version of the celebrated competition, highlighting the continent's most skilled and safety-conscious young drivers. The contest follows the success of the European Best Young Driver initiative, first launched in Slovenia in 2017 and now embraced across Europe. Africa's edition is tailored to the continent's unique roads, cultures, and realities, giving young drivers a platform to shine.

The event aims to break stereotypes that link youth to risky driving and crashes. Instead, it shows that many young drivers are disciplined, responsible, and eager to set a positive example for safer mobility.

Open to drivers aged 18 to 26 with a valid category B license, the

contest is about more than speed. Participants will face challenges that test vehicle handling, first aid, traffic rule knowledge, and overall road safety practices, all designed to reflect real-life skills that save lives.

By blending driving ability with safety awareness, the winners will stand out not only as skilled drivers but also as ambassadors for safer roads in their countries.

Africa has the highest rate of road traffic deaths in the world, and young people are most affected. That makes this contest more than just a competition. It's a call to action. By celebrating smart and safe young drivers, the event hopes to inspire change and show that youth can lead the way in solving Africa's road safety crisis.

The first edition will be held in Naivasha, Kenya, home to the Safari rally. Kenya is a regional leader in road safety efforts, with AA Kenya active in education campaigns, safer infrastructure, and community outreach. Bringing together drivers

from across Africa will also help strengthen collaboration between countries on shared safety challenges.

The contest is designed as both a competition and a celebration. Young drivers will connect with peers, share knowledge, and experience the thrill of representing their countries. Audiences, in turn, will get to see a new side of African youth innovative, responsible, and committed to change.

For AA Kenya, hosting the inaugural edition underlines its long-standing mission to promote safer mobility. It also places Kenya firmly on the global motorsport and mobility map while helping shape a new generation of road safety champions.

As the countdown to Naivasha begins, excitement is building across the continent. The long-term goal is for the contest to become a regular African championship, creating a pipeline of young ambassadors who will influence safer driving habits for years to come.



# Rwanda's \$1.2 Billion Formula 1 Bid Signals potential F1 return to Africa

Rwanda has launched an ambitious \$1.2 billion project to bring Formula 1 back to Africa for the first time in more than three decades. If successful, the country will make history as the first Sub-Saharan African nation to host a modern F1 Grand Prix, reigniting motorsport on the continent since South Africa's last race at Kyalami in 1993.

At the heart of the plan is a state-of-the-art F1 circuit to be built near the new Bugesera International Airport, about 40 kilometers from Kigali. The track will be designed by Test and Training International, led by former F1 driver Alexander Wurz, and built to FIA Grade One standards, the highest certification required for Formula 1. The location ensures seamless access for racing teams, media, and international fans, while also aligning with Rwanda's ambition to become a regional tourism and logistics hub.

Rwanda's tourism industry is already one of Africa's fastest growing, earning \$620 million in 2023. Officials expect an F1 Grand Prix to accelerate this trajectory, drawing global visitors and spotlighting Rwanda on the world stage. With F1 broadcast to more than 400 million viewers per season, the event offers Rwanda unprecedented visibility. Beyond prestige, the project is expected to generate thousands of jobs, expand infrastructure, and boost the hospitality sector. "Africa is a crucial market for motorsport's future," said FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem, who voiced strong support for Rwanda's bid.

Africa has been absent from the F1 calendar since 1993, despite periodic talks of a return. While South Africa and Zanzibar explored bids, Rwanda's government-backed and fully financed proposal has made it the frontrunner. The alignment between national leadership, engineering expertise, and FIA support gives Rwanda's project momentum rarely seen in international motorsport planning.

Construction is expected to begin in 2026, with the first race targeted for 2027 or 2028. The circuit is designed as a multi-purpose venue, hosting not only F1 but also automotive expos, tourism fairs, and youth training programs in engineering and event management. For Rwanda, the Grand Prix is not just about racing but is also a catalyst for economic transformation, branding the nation as a bold new player in high-performance industries.

Kigali is signalling that Africa is ready to rejoin the global motorsport map. If realized, the Rwandan Grand Prix will revive F1 in Africa and inspire other nations to invest in world-class sporting infrastructure. The world is now watching Kigali not just for its green hills and resilient spirit, but as the next potential stop on the globe-trotting Formula 1 calendar.





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# AA Kenya Hosts First-Ever Road Safety Excellence Awards to Honour Champions of Safer Roads

By Lucy Kamau-Odote

In a landmark event that celebrated and honoured ongoing efforts to make roads safer, AA Kenya hosted its inaugural Road Safety Excellence Awards, bringing together a diverse cross-section of stakeholders. The event, held in Nairobi, Kenya recognized individuals, organizations, and institutions that have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and commitment in promoting road safety across the country.

“Why these awards? Over the years, AA Kenya has collected extensive data on what’s happening on our roads. We realised that behind the numbers are stories of impact. Efforts worth recognising and learning from. This platform helps us celebrate progress, exchange ideas, and foster a stronger culture of safety.” Said Francis Theuri, Managing Director of AA Kenya.

The awards gala was attended by senior government officials, including Principal Secretary for Sports Elijah Mwangi, National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) Director General George Njao, Traffic Police Commandant, AA Kenya Governing Council members, and grassroots safety advocates from across the country.

The AA Road Safety Excellence Awards covered a diverse range of categories, highlighting the multifaceted nature of road safety in Kenya today. These included: Driver Safety & Wellness, Road Safety Champion of the year, Road Safety Innovation, Policy & Compliance, Insurance company of the year, Motor Financier, Community engagement & Motor Club of the year.

Other categories included EV Adoption Champion, Traffic Base Commander of the year, Matatu Sacco, Bodaboda Sacco, Learning Institutions and Digital Taxi Operator of the year.

The event was vibrant, with winners expressing pride in

being recognised for their contributions to road safety. One of the highlights of the event was the Road Safety Corner, where attendees signed a pledge to become committed and responsible road users. The pledge board featured Ten Road Safety Commandments, each displaying key messages on safe road practices. This engaging activity sparked lively interactions, while also reinforcing the importance of embracing a strong road safety culture.

“Road safety isn’t just about infrastructure or regulation. It’s about behaviour, culture, and the choices we make every day,” said Elijah Mwangi, Principal Secretary, State Department for Sports. “This event gives us a moment to reflect on our individual and collective responsibility to uphold safety on our roads.”

The awards reflect the core pillars of Kenya’s National Road Safety Action Plan and align with the objectives of the UN Decade for Action for Road Safety, which aims to significantly reduce road traffic deaths and injuries worldwide through better education, enforcement, infrastructure, and policy.

In his address, NTSA Director General George Njao announced plans to reintroduce alcohol testing (Alcoblow) and roll out more highway surveillance cameras to reduce dangerous driving and support enforcement.

“The majority of road crash victims in Kenya are between 18 and 35 years old. To reverse this trend, we must strengthen partnerships, improve education, and hold drivers accountable,” he said.

The AA Kenya Road Safety Excellence Awards mark a critical step forward in recognising Kenya’s road safety champions and encouraging a collaborative, data-driven approach to saving lives.



## Road Safety Champion Award

**Eng. Mary Abungu**



**Individual**



**Community Based Organisation**



**Corporate Organization**





# Learning Safety Early

## How Schools Shape Safer Road Users

By Riapius Magoma

**W**hen we think of road safety, images of traffic police, NTSA, road signs and zebra crossings often come to mind. Yet one of the most powerful tools for creating safer roads sits inside every classroom. Schools are not only centres of learning but also vital training grounds for future drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Children spend much of their formative years in school, where habits are shaped and values instilled. Teaching road safety early means that by the time students reach the age of independence, they already understand the rules, risks, and responsibilities of sharing the road.

**What does research say?** Studies across Europe and Africa confirm that integrating road safety into school curricula improves knowledge and attitudes. In Denmark, a program that used storytelling and real-life testimonials increased students' awareness of risk and boosted helmet use. In Greece, digital road safety lessons led to measurable improvements in how children viewed safe walking and cycling.

Closer to home, Ugandan schools with Road Safety Clubs have shown how students can become powerful change agents adopting safer habits themselves while influencing parents and entire communities. In Kenya, AA Kenya, working with iRAP and the FIA Foundation, has gone further by combining education with action on the ground. Together they are improving infrastructure around schools, applying the iRAP Star Rating for Schools methodology, and ensuring safety upgrades are backed by classroom learning. When students are taught how to cross roads safely, stay visible, and respect traffic rules, they carry those lessons into everyday life multiplying the impact well beyond the school gates.

Schools contribute to road safety through simple but powerful teaching methods:

- **Curriculum integration:** Embedding traffic rules, pedestrian behaviour, and responsible cycling into science, social studies, or life-skills lessons.

- **Peer-to-peer learning:** Student-led clubs, plays, and debates encourage young people to take ownership of safety messages.

- **Practical demonstrations:** Mock road crossings, reflective gear use, and bicycle training make safety lessons real and memorable.

- **Creative engagement:** Competitions in art, poetry, or drama on road safety themes help reinforce learning in fun, lasting ways.

Education doesn't end in the classroom. When schools organize safety days, invite experts, or partner with traffic police, the lessons resonate more strongly. Parents, too, benefit when children bring home safety messages, reminding families to use seatbelts, respect speed limits, or wear helmets.

These approaches position schools as multipliers of safety knowledge

The World Health Organization notes that road traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for 5–29-year-olds worldwide. In Africa, where rapid urbanization and mixed traffic conditions increase risks, empowering children with safety knowledge is not just a protective measure but also an investment in the continent's future.

Every child who grows up understanding the importance of wearing a helmet, respecting zebra crossings, or avoiding distracted walking is a step toward safer cities and highways. By turning classrooms into road safety laboratories, schools help ensure that tomorrow's drivers, riders, and pedestrians are more responsible than today's.





## Learning Institution of the year Primary Schools



**Kimoroi Primary  
Kenol**



**Laureate School**  
Kindergarten | Primary School | Junior Secondary  
Aim to Achieve







**K**CA University has launched its Research Centre for Road Safety and Accident Surveillance, a multi-disciplinary hub designed to confront one of East Africa's most pressing public health crises: road traffic crashes.

The Centre's mandate is to produce high-quality, actionable research, deliver data-driven insights, and inform policy with the ultimate goal of reducing road fatalities. Unlike traditional approaches that attribute most crashes to "human error," the Centre will investigate the full chain of causation with scientific precision.

Its work will integrate diverse datasets, including police crash reports, hospital trauma admissions, vehicle inspection logs, and geospatial mapping, to build dynamic, localized models capable of answering complex questions such as which combination of road design, time of day, and vehicle type presents the highest risk.

According to Vice Chancellor and CEO Prof. Isaiah Wakindiki, the Centre will be the first of its kind in Kenya, serving as a one-stop shop for gathering and transmitting scientific data to support policy formulation, discovery, and innovation.

"We have been talking about road safety for the longest time through various sectors of the country, but no university has domesticated it in the form of a research centre. This is what we will do here at KCA University," Prof. Wakindiki said.

Data from the National Transport and Safety Authority shows that 7,198 Kenyans have been involved in road crashes since the beginning of the year.

"We are here to provide solutions to challenges affecting society. We will use research and innovation to alleviate these accidents," Prof. Wakindiki added.

The establishment of the Centre signals a shift in Kenya's road safety landscape, from reactive responses to proactive, evidence-based planning. Its operations will be anchored on three objectives:

1. **High-Fidelity Data Generation:** Creation of an integrated Accident Surveillance Database consolidating multi-source data for detailed, incident-specific analysis.
2. **Causation Modeling and Risk Insight:** Development of localized, risk-weighted accident models drawing on expertise in engineering, IT, and public health to identify and quantify contributing factors.
3. **Policy and Intervention Design:** Translation of research into practical recommendations and blueprints for policymakers, regulators, and infrastructure planners, with emphasis on actionable solutions for enforcement, redesign, and reform.



## Learning Institution of the year Tertiary Institutions

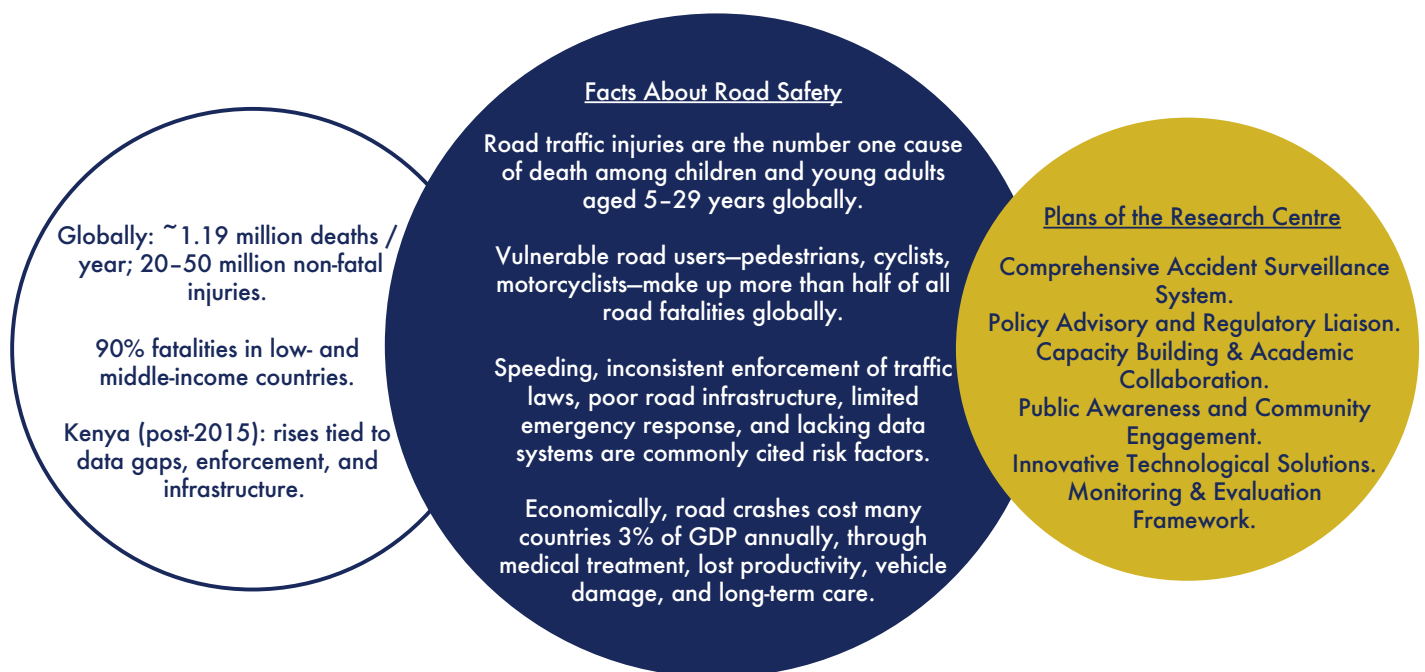






## Research Center for Road Safety and Accident Surveillance

The Centre is a multidisciplinary hub established by KCA University to tackle one of Kenya's and East Africa's most urgent public health challenges of road traffic accidents.



The Centre's mandate is to generate high-quality, actionable research, provide data-driven insights and partner with government, industry and civil society to inform policy, design interventions and ultimately reduce lives lost on roads.

It leverages modern tools including GIS, AI, spatial analytics, crash data surveillance and collaborative policy research to understand the root causes, develop real life and implement sustainable solutions





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## Matatu Sacco Of The Year

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## Motor Club of the Year Award

**TSI East Africa**

**Kichaka Patrol**

**Axela Nation**





# First Aid Corner – Powered by STOP THE BLEED Kenya Initiative



Every day in Kenya, 13 families lose a loved one to a road crash (NTSA). While ambulances exist, they often arrive after the most critical window has passed. The truth is clear: the first people at the scene – motorists, passengers, boda riders, or pedestrians – are the true first responders.

Yet too often, nothing is done. Drivers slow down to watch. Crowds gather in silence. Each person assumes “someone else” will step forward. This hesitation, known as the bystander effect, is deadly on our roads.

“

## What is the Bystander Effect?

The bystander effect happens when people fail to act in an emergency because they believe someone else will. On Kenyan roads, this silence costs lives.

”

## How to Act – Even Without Medical Training

You don’t need to be a medic to save a life. It begins with scene safety and simple actions that buy time until professionals arrive:

1. Warn traffic – Place lifesaver triangles at least 50m from the crash site.
2. Prevent fire – Switch off the ignition of crashed vehicles.
3. Don’t move casualties – Unless there’s immediate

danger (fire, leaking fuel).

4. Then provide First Aid – Only after the scene is safe.

At STOP THE BLEED® Kenya Initiative, we believe every driver and passenger has the power to step forward. Ambulances save lives – but it’s the courage of ordinary road users that often keeps victims alive long enough to reach them.

## Scene Safety Tip of the Month

Always carry lifesaver triangles. Position them 50 metres behind and in front of the crash (further if visibility is poor). This protects victims, helpers, and motorists alike.

## QuickFix Tip of the Month: Controlling Severe Bleeding

- Secure the scene (Safety Triangles, ignition off).
- Place a clean cloth (or your shirt) directly on the wound and press firmly.
- If blood soaks through, add more layers – never lift the first cloth.
- Maintain pressure while calling for help.

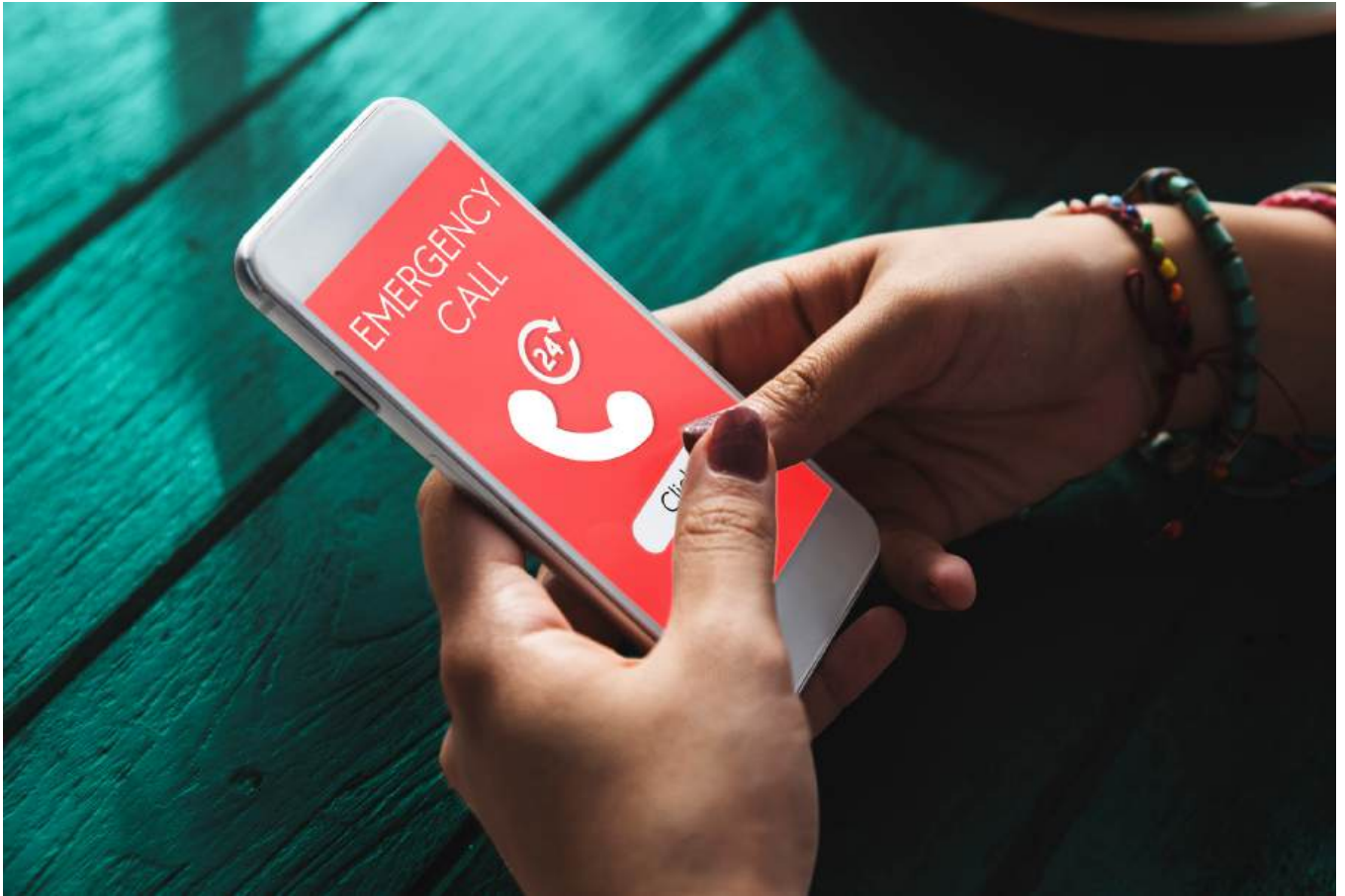




## Driver Safety & Wellness Award







#### Emergency Numbers:

- AA Kenya Roadside Assistance: 0709 933 000 / 0709 933 999
- Police: 999 / 112
- Ambulance: via AA Kenya or local providers

STOPPING BLEEDING is the fastest, most effective way to save a life before an ambulance arrives.

#### Beyond the Crash

If safe to approach:

- Reassure victims: "Help is on the way. You are not alone."

- Avoid unnecessary movement: Many crash victims may have spinal injuries.
- Delegate tasks: Ask others to direct traffic, call responders, or comfort victims.
- Care for yourself: Witnessing a crash can be traumatic - talking about it helps.

So, the next time you encounter a crash, don't let the bystander effect hold you back. Make the scene safe. STOP THE BLEEDING. Make the call.

*Because in those first few minutes - you are the difference.*





**Insurance Company  
of the year Award**

**GA Insurance**  
Kenya



# Why African Automotive Leaders Are Heading to Automechanika Dubai 2025



Africa's automotive aftermarket is no longer a side story, it's becoming a major global opportunity. Market analysts project the continent's aftermarket value to hit **US\$42 billion by 2027**, with annual vehicle demand expected to exceed **10 million units by 2030** (B&M Analysts). For African industry leaders, this signals an urgent need to position themselves within global supply chains.

Attending Automechanika Dubai 2025 is not just about networking, it's about securing the region's place in the next phase of global automotive trade.

## A Gateway for East African Importers and Distributors

For East African players, two persistent challenges define the aftermarket landscape: access to direct sourcing and the fight against counterfeit parts. Automechanika Dubai scheduled for 9–11 December 2025 at the Dubai World Trade Centre offers tangible solutions through its AfriConnections initiative.

**AfriConnections** is a dedicated platform designed to connect African buyers directly with over 2,400 global automotive brands. It streamlines trade by cutting out multiple intermediaries, enabling participants to negotiate directly with verified manufacturers. The expected result is lower costs, guaranteed product authenticity, and stronger supply reliability.

Regional experts agree that this model represents the most effective route to stabilizing and scaling aftermarket operations across Africa, especially in fast-growing markets like Kenya.

## Staying Ahead Through Technical Foresight

Africa's mobility future will be defined by technology adoption. To stay competitive, industry players must engage with the show's core themes: Electrification, Digitalisation, and Innovation.

Automechanika Dubai offers hands-on exposure to the latest tools and insights shaping the global automotive landscape. Whether it's acquiring advanced diagnostic

equipment, exploring EV service partnerships, or attending sessions at the Automechanika Academy on sustainable lubricants and workshop management software, participants gain actionable intelligence for immediate implementation.

Sessions under the AfriConnections banner also delve into Africa-specific issues, market entry strategies, distribution logistics, and e-commerce trends, providing proprietary data to guide smart investment decisions.

The numbers tell the story, and the timeline is clear. Automechanika Dubai 2025 is not a routine trade show, it's a strategic investment in operational resilience and market leadership.

For businesses determined to lead Africa's automotive transformation, **9–11 December 2025** is a date that cannot be missed.

Secure your registration now to ensure access to high-value meetings and sourcing opportunities.







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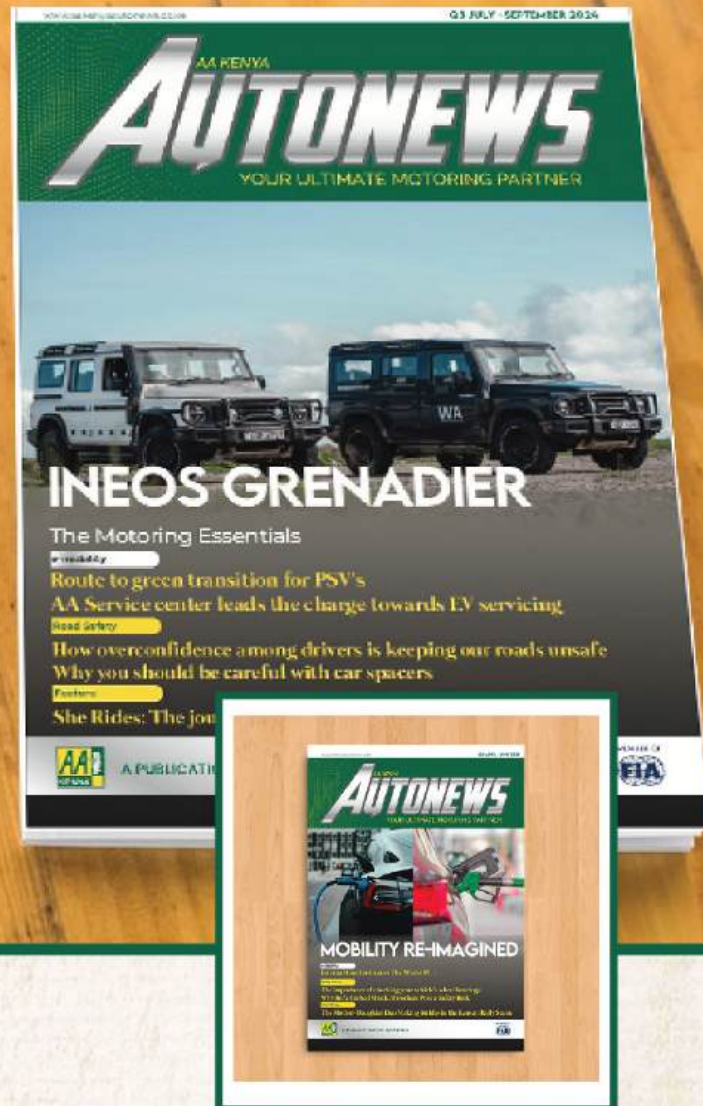
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# Tape Lifting

By Timothy Albrite

## What it is and Why It Matters

When it comes to owning a vehicle in Kenya, ensuring that the details on your logbook match the car you're driving is a step that can safeguard you against fraud. One key process that guarantees this authenticity is tape lifting, a verification procedure carried out by the **Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI)** in partnership with the **National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA)**.

## What is Tape Lifting?

Tape lifting is a forensic method used by the DCI to confirm that a vehicle's **chassis number** and engine number match the information in its official registration records.

Here's how it works:

- A special carbon paper is placed over the engraved numbers on the vehicle.
- Adhesive tape is pressed onto the surface, lifting an exact impression of the identifiers.
- The impression is compared against NTSA records.
- If everything matches, the DCI issues a **tape lift report**

This simple but crucial step helps protect buyers, sellers, and institutions from logbook forgery, cloned vehicles, and fraudulent ownership transfers.

## Why is Tape Lifting Important?

1. **Verify Vehicle Particulars** – Confirms the authenticity of chassis and engine numbers.

2. **Combat Fraud** – Prevents forgery, cloning, & illegal transfers of vehicle ownership.

3. **Support Documentation** – Provides an official report needed for NTSA transactions.

By closing the loopholes around fake logbooks and tampered numbers, tape lifting is a cornerstone of Kenya's broader effort to protect motorists.

## When Do You Need Tape Lifting?

A tape lift report is required in several common scenarios:

- Applying for a **duplicate logbook**.
- Replacing a **lost or damaged number plate**.
- After a **vehicle engine replacement**.
- During a **forced ownership transfer**, such as in auctions or repossessions.

## Step-by-Step: How It's Done

1. Present the vehicle to a **DCI officer**.
2. Place carbon paper over the chassis and engine numbers.
3. Apply the adhesive tape to lift the impression.
4. Inspect and verify the lifted numbers against NTSA records.
5. Receive an official **tape lift report** once the process is complete.

The procedure is quick, though it's wise to set aside a day, as timelines may vary by office workload.





## Traffic Base Commander of the Year Award

**Kennedy Njuguna  
Garissa**

**Derrick M. Nyaga  
Naivasha**

**Erastus Maraka  
Ruaraka**







**INSPECTOR KENNEDY NJUGUNA:  
Traffic Base Commander of the Year at the  
AA Road Safety Excellence Awards**





From a childhood dream in the hills of Murang'a to national recognition in the country's capital, Inspector Kennedy Njuguna Muchoki has built a career defined by service, discipline, and a relentless pursuit of safer roads for all Kenyans.

Raised in Murang'a County, Njuguna stood out early as a bright student with an A-grade performance. While many expected him to follow a conventional academic path, he chose policing, driven by a calling to serve. His pursuit of a degree in Criminology at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) laid the academic foundation for a distinguished career in law enforcement.

He joined the Kenya Police Service in 2017 and graduated from the Kenya Police Training College in Kiganjo a year later. His first posting took him to the Anti-Crime Branch in Kakamega before he moved to Bungoma. A promotion to Inspector followed, along with a posting to Malindi Police Station as the Officer Commanding Anti-Crime Branch.

In Malindi, Inspector Njuguna's leadership was visibly tested. During the high-profile Operation Okoa Maisha in Shakahola, he led the Kenya Police Service camp in a mission that lasted over five months. Under his command, officers rescued 95 individuals from the forest, a milestone that affirmed his operational acumen and capacity to lead in moments of national crisis.

By 2023, he was promoted to Deputy Base Commander in Malindi, where he shifted his focus to traffic and road safety. Njuguna quickly earned a reputation for innovative traffic management, blending enforcement with community engagement. He worked hand-in-hand with motorists, boda-boda and tuk-tuk operators, institutions, and transport stakeholders, building trust while instilling safer practices on the roads.

In 2025, Njuguna assumed his current role as Base Commander in Garissa Township. Here, he faced chaotic tuk-tuk operations that clogged streets, fuelled congestion, and contributed to rising accident rates. Working with the Garissa County Government, Njuguna spearheaded the creation of designated stages for tuk-tuks and required operators to register. What was once a fragmented, disorderly sector began to take shape. Riders formed SACCOs with structured leadership, which improved accountability and discipline. The results were tangible: chronic traffic jams in Garissa town centre were eliminated, both injury and non-injury accidents declined and Riders, now organized and empowered, began self-regulating and embracing safer road practices.

Beyond these reforms, Njuguna has championed daily road safety sensitization meetings with motorists and boda-boda riders. His team uses public forums and digital platforms to amplify the message of safety, making awareness part of everyday life. This blend of enforcement, education, and empowerment has helped transform Garissa's traffic culture, setting a new benchmark for community-driven policing.

In recognition of his efforts, Inspector Njuguna was

named Traffic Base Commander of the Year at the inaugural AA Road Safety Excellence Awards. The prestigious ceremony was held on July 4, 2025, at the Pullman Hotel in Upper Hill, Nairobi. Other recognized base commanders included Erastus Maraka (Ruaraka), Derrick M. Nyaga (formerly at Naivasha Traffic Base), Solomon Wambui (Makuyu), and Nyadzua Lwembe (Bungoma Traffic Base).

*Inspector Njuguna's story is not just one of personal achievement but a model for how Kenya can build safer, more efficient roads one initiative, one partnership, and one community at a time.*





# Enhancing Road Safety in Kenya: The Strategic Role of Insurance Companies

By Paul Karuga Njuguna

Road safety in Kenya remains a growing concern, with rising crash rates, increasing claims, and devastating social and economic consequences. As critical stakeholders in the transport ecosystem, **insurance companies** are uniquely positioned to influence safer driving behaviour, improve policy compliance, and support regulatory enforcement.

This article proposes a series of **actionable strategies** that insurers, in collaboration with government multi-agencies, can spearhead to enhance road safety and reduce losses.

## 1. Driving Licence Points System & Shared Insurance Database

One of the most effective global road safety measures is a **driving licence demerit point system** a mechanism where drivers accumulate or lose points based on violations. Kenya had previously proposed such a system, but it was never fully implemented.

**We propose its urgent revival and integration with a centralized insurance-driver database** managed jointly by NTSA and insurers. The system would:

- Deduct points from drivers after verified violations such as speeding, drunk driving, or reckless overtaking.
- Share violation data with insurance companies via a real-time shared database.
- Allow insurers to **increase premiums**, blacklist habitual offenders, or decline renewals for extremely

high-risk drivers.

- Incentivize safe driving by rewarding drivers who maintain full points with No-Claim **Bonuses** and discounted premiums.

- This integrated approach will **deter dangerous driving**, reduce fraudulent claims, and ultimately make Kenyan roads safer due to the **painful consequences** of repeated violations.

## 2. Centralized Insurance-Driver Database

Insurance policies should be **linked directly to verified drivers**, ensuring traceability and accountability. This system should allow NTSA, insurers, and police to:

- Curb unauthorized drivers and “kamageras” (illegal taxi operators).
- Prevent misuse of insured vehicles by unqualified individuals.
- Flag high risk drivers based on historical claims and violations.

## 3. Reintroduction of the No-Claim Bonus (NCB) System

A proven incentive for safe driving, the **No Claim Bonus** should be reinstated and integrated with the shared database. Benefits include:

- Premium discounts for drivers with zero-accident records.
- **A centralized claims registry** to flag drivers at fault, ensuring repeat offenders face higher premiums.





## Community Engagement Award



**Kenya**  
Red Cross



**KINGSWAY**  
TYRES LIMITED





- 
- Improved underwriting accuracy for insurers through risk-based pricing.

#### 4. Permanent Deregistration of Written-Off Vehicles

To enhance safety and reduce fraudulent claims, NTSA should **permanently deregister vehicles declared total write-offs with the help with the police who are on the ground**. Insurers should ensure these vehicles:

- Are barred from being rebuilt and illegally reintroduced to roads.
- Are automatically flagged in the insurance database to prevent coverage manipulation.
- Are traceable during third-party claims to eliminate loopholes.

#### 5. Enforcing Bus Fabrication & Safety Standards

Most Kenyan buses are fabricated using truck chassis lacking proper safety systems. Insurance companies should lobby for the strict enforcement of **KEBS KS372 safety standards**, which mandate:

- Proper rollover protection structures.
- Emergency escape hatches and safety tools like window-breaking hammers.
- Use of dedicated bus chassis with certified crash-tested safety designs.

This would drastically reduce fatalities in mass casualty crashes while lowering insurer liabilities.

#### 6. Monitoring and Deterring Illegal Street Racing

Illegal street racing involving cars and motorbikes is on the rise. Insurers can support enforcement by:

- Funding teams to monitor and document unsanctioned races.
- Penalizing offenders through policy cancellations or premium hikes.
- Advocating for recognition of only Motorsport Kenya sanctioned events.





## Road Safety Innovations Award





# Eng. Mary Abungu- Road Safety Champion of the Year

## *Engineering Safer Roads for Africa*

By Timothy Albrite



**W**hen Eng. Mary Abungu stepped onto the stage to receive her title as Road Safety Champion of the Year, it was more than an award. It was a milestone for every young professional daring to rewrite Africa's mobility story. Her journey began with the spark of a female mentor in high school. It was sharpened through studies in Kenya and the UK. And it has grown into a career at the forefront of road safety and sustainable transport.

Today, as both engineer and advocate, Mary is challenging the normalization of road fatalities and pushing for bold, evidence-based reforms. In an interview with AutoNews, she shares her journey, her proudest achievements, and her vision of roads as pathways to safety, equity, and opportunity.

**1. Tell us a little about yourself and your background. Who is Mary? Where did you grow up and what were your early influences?**

I am Mary Abungu, a transportation engineer and road safety specialist passionate about creating safer, inclusive, and sustainable mobility systems. I grew up in Kenya, where I witnessed firsthand how unsafe and non-inclusive roads affect families and communities. My early influences came from observing the challenges people face in accessing safe transport, especially women, children, and vulnerable road users, which inspired me to dedicate my career to transforming mobility.

**2. What inspired you to pursue civil engineering, and later specialize in transport and road safety?**

I was always drawn to problem-solving and the idea of shaping environments that directly impact people's lives. My interest in civil engineering became stronger during a high school mentorship program where I met a female engineer who inspired me deeply. Seeing her excel in a male-dominated field gave me the confidence to pursue a similar path despite the gender disparity. Civil engineering gave me the foundation to understand infrastructure, and my growing concern about rising road crashes in Kenya led me to specialize in transport and road safety. I realized that beyond building roads, we must design systems that protect lives.

**3. You studied both in Kenya and abroad. How did your educational journey shape your perspective on mobility and infrastructure?**

Studying in Kenya exposed me to the unique local challenges such as limited resources, rapid urbanization, and policy gaps. My postgraduate studies in the UK broadened my perspective, introducing me to global best practices like the Safe Systems approach. This combination helped me appreciate that effective solutions must be locally relevant yet globally informed.

**4. What first sparked your interest in road safety specifically, as opposed to other areas of engineering?**

My interest was sparked by the human stories behind statistics and the sad state we are currently in of normalizing crash fatalities. Each crash represents a life lost or changed forever, and I felt a responsibility to use my skills to make mobility safer. Seeing how



preventable most crashes are motivated me to focus my career on road safety.

**5. Can you walk us through your current role(s)? What does a typical day look like for Eng. Mary Abungu?**

I wear several hats. I work as a transportation engineer and road safety specialist at TIMCON Associates, and I also lead SUMO Africa, which I founded to advance sustainable mobility across the region. My typical day involves engaging with stakeholders, analyzing data, designing safe transportation systems, supporting policy reforms, and coordinating projects. It's a balance between technical work, advocacy, and capacity-building.

**6. You've led several impactful projects across Kenya and the region. What would you say is the core mission behind your work?**

The core mission is to save lives and create transport systems that serve everyone equitably. My projects, whether technical, capacity building, policy advocacy, or engagement workshops, are united by the belief that mobility is a right, and it must be safe, sustainable, and inclusive.

**7. You're also the founding director of Sustainable Mobility Africa (SUMO Africa). What inspired the creation of this platform, and what is its main focus?**

SUMO Africa was born out of the need to create a regional voice advocating for sustainable, people-

centered mobility solutions. I was inspired to establish it because I saw a gap in collaboration among key decision makers, policymakers, young professionals, and communities. The platform focuses on road safety, sustainable and active mobility, data-driven decision-making, and women and youth engagement.

**8. What's one misconception people have about road safety that you wish you could correct?**

Many people believe road crashes are accidents, random and unavoidable. In reality, they are preventable events resulting from systemic failures in design, behavior, and enforcement. If we adopt a Safe Systems approach, we can significantly reduce fatalities and injuries.

**9. We have to ask what's your dream car, and why? (And do you currently own it?)**

My dream car for now is a Suzuki Jimny. It is compact, reliable, and perfect for navigating both city roads and off-road terrains in Kenya. In the future, I aspire to own a Mercedes Benz GLE-Class, which combines elegance, comfort, and stability. I don't own either, but I admire how they balance comfort and durability.

**10. How does it feel to be named Road Safety Champion of the Year? What does this recognition mean to you?**

I am still reeling from the experience. It's an incredible honor and a humbling recognition of the work not just I, but many young professionals, are doing to make







mobility safer. It validates the importance of youth voices in shaping policy and inspires me to keep pushing for reforms that save lives.

**11. Looking back at your journey, which achievement are you most proud of, and what still keeps you up at night?**

I would say the Road Safety Champion of the Year recognition takes the lead. But I am also very proud of my efforts through the Connect the Dots, Save a Life workshop, which brought together all key government stakeholders in the road safety space, as well as development partners, the private sector, and CSOs, to discuss collaboration on road safety data, something that had never happened before.

What keeps me up at night, however, is the lack of urgency on addressing road safety matters, even as lives continue to be lost daily.

**12. What is the one change or reform in Kenya's road safety landscape that you believe could save the most lives if implemented today?**

The one change that I believe could save the most lives in Kenya is institutionalizing a fully integrated, transparent road crash data management system, coupled with harmonization of efforts across all stakeholders. Today, data is fragmented across different agencies, which limits our ability to design effective interventions.

If we had accurate, timely, and shared data, and if government, development partners, private sector, and civil society worked in a coordinated manner, we could target resources better, implement evidence-based strategies, and ultimately save countless lives.

**13. What message would you share with the next generation of engineers and road safety advocates in Kenya?**

Be bold, innovative, and collaborative. Road safety is not just about engineering but about empathy, advocacy, and policy reform. Your voice matters, use it to challenge the status quo and push for safer, more inclusive mobility systems. You are change you want to see.

**14. Finally, what's next for you, personally or professionally, as you continue to champion safer, smarter mobility across Africa?**

Professionally, I am working to expand SUMO Africa's reach and deepen collaborations with regional and international partners to reform gaps in strategies and policies, while also advancing my work at TIMCON where I focus on transportation engineering and road safety projects.

Personally, I aim to continue building expertise, possibly pursuing a PhD in transport policy and reforms, to influence decision-making at the higher levels. My ultimate goal is to see Africa embrace mobility systems that are safe, sustainable, and people-centered.



# The Next Generation of Petrolheads

By Timothy Albrite



## Meet the Young Drivers Taking On Kenya's Toughest Terrain

There are two kinds of people in this world: those who see a car as little more than a tool for getting from point A to B, and those who see it as a mechanical extension of their very soul. The latter are the ones who truly understand the language of the internal combustion engine, or the deep rumble of a V8. For two young men, **Munene Gitau** and **Ephy Kamau**, this language is their mother tongue, a dialect they speak with a fluency that would shame most adults.

**Samy Wambugu**, father to Ephy Kamau and uncle to Gitau Munene, is a quiet force behind the scenes. As part of TIV East Africa, the recommended WRC rescue team, he has built a professional life on motorsport safety. But for Wambugu, the sport is more than a job; it's a personal passion he has had since he was old enough to get his own car. It was this love that he saw reflected in the boys from a very young age.

Wambugu points out that their strength and support came from **Wilson Munene**, Gitau Munene's father, and uncle to Ephy Kamau, who the kids mention as a mentor who introduced them to the sport and also played a big role in where they are today.

"You could see their keen interest in motor repairs," he says, "from changing tires to helping with oil changes." It was a curiosity he chose to encourage rather than stifle. He nurtured their fascination, exposing them to the intricacies of motor vehicles beyond just driving. This is how he got them into the sport, spotting their natural talent and their cautiousness on the road, and deciding it was something worth pursuing.

Their vehicle of choice is the legendary Land Rover Defender, fitted with all terrain Ultraforce tyres, a car

Sam himself holds in high regard. "The vehicle handles the terrain very well, both at high speed and even at low speed," he says, with the kind of affection only a true off-roader can have for his machine. It's this shared love for a vehicle that can "crawl" and conquer any obstacle that has become the foundation of their family's off-roading adventures.

First, let's talk about **Munene Gitau**. At 14, Munene is already a veteran of the off-road circuit. He learned to drive at the tender age of six, and at eight, he was competing in his first event, the Jumbo Charge 4x4 Mt. Elgon Challenge. He drives a Land Rover Defender 110, a V8, no less, and speaks of it with the kind of reverence a man reserves for his most prized possession. He's not just a driver; he's a student of the game, homeschooling so he can focus on mechanical engineering, and has a dream of opening his own garage. Munene is the kind of kid who makes you feel like you haven't done enough with your life. He's already a champion in the beginner's category and is now competing in the intermediate and expert categories in the 4 X4 Challenges. He's also not shy about sharing his knowledge, with plans to start a training academy to bring more people, into the sport.

Then we have **Ephy Kamau**, all of 12 years old and already a champion in his own right. Ephy loved this sport since he was 5 but he joined the sport at 11 and won his very first challenge. When you hear him talk, there's a quiet confidence that is truly impressive. He speaks of the challenges with a level head, describing the mud and rock-filled paths as "not really that hard if you have determination and skill." For him, it's about staying calm and focused. He's not just driving a car, he's orchestrating a symphony of machine and will,



with a co-driver to help him through the difficult parts. Ephy's story is a reminder that sometimes, all it takes is a video to spark a passion and a willingness to try something new.

Beyond the passion and the pedigree lies the brutal reality of the events themselves. These aren't simple drives in the park; they are calculated assaults on nature itself. Competitions like the



Jumbo Challenge, held in unforgiving locations like Mount Elgon, Lukenya Hills, and Meru, pit drivers of all ages against one another. The courses are a brutal mix of mud-slicked trenches, jagged rock formations, and steep inclines, each section designed to test the limits of both man and machine.

As Gitau Munene points out, understanding whether the course is "mostly rock, mostly mud, or a mix of both" is a critical first step. For these young drivers, the challenge is not just physical but also mental. Ephy, with a champion's calm, says it's not really that hard "if you have determination and skill in driving, and to always clear your mind before starting." He adds that with a fully equipped car boasting lockers and specialized tires, the stages become a little less daunting.

So what do you say to a kid who wants to join this mud-splattered, high-octane world? The message from both young men is simple and powerful: follow your dreams and never give up. Munene advises getting a parent's consent and even offers to mentor aspiring drivers through his Instagram page, emphasizing that it's a safe sport with all the necessary safety gear. The doors, it seems, are open to anyone who has the passion, regardless of gender or age.

In the end, what struck me most was not their skill or their ambition, but their character. They are polite, articulate, and completely in love with what they do. They are the future of Kenyan motorsport, and if they are anything to go by, that future is in very good hands.





## Motor Financier of the year Award







# AT-X



# RT-X

From rugged trails to smooth highways  
forge your path with confidence.





# Hiview International launches Topking Service Centre along Kiambu Road

**H**iview International, the distributor of Roadcruza tyres, Ultraforce tyres, and Flamingo car care products, has officially launched a modern vehicle service centre along Kiambu Road. Known as **Topking Service Centre**, the new facility is already causing a buzz both on the ground and online thanks to its standout feature: a 360-degree, touchless car wash system that cleans a car in under 10 minutes.

The fully automated car wash has become a viral sensation, attracting attention for its speed, efficiency, and sleek technology. The wash uses a high-pressure, no-contact system

With its clean design, professional staff, and commitment to fast, reliable service, Topking aims to raise the standard for vehicle servicing in Nairobi and beyond.

Speaking at the launch event, Hiview International Managing Director, Francis Kamau, affirmed the company's focus on customer satisfaction and creating a comfortable experience for motorists. "We want to make sure that whenever you come here, you leave as a delighted customer," he said. "We're committed to meeting and exceeding your expectations. This is a classic setup."



that is ideal for today's busy drivers who want both convenience and quality.

But there's more to Topking than just the high-tech car wash. The new service centre is built to serve as a full-service auto stop, offering everyday car care and maintenance under one roof. Drivers can access a wide range of services, including:

- Oil change services
- Engine diagnostics and checks
- Wheel alignment and balancing
- Suspension checks and servicing
- Tyre sales and fitting, featuring top-performing brands like Roadcruza, Ultraforce, and Wanda
- A wide selection of Flamingo car care products, including polishes, sprays, and cleaners

When you come for services, you can continue with your work or relax, thanks to a comfortable lounge and high-speed Wi-Fi."

Strategically located along the busy Kiambu Road corridor, the service centre is well-positioned to serve both residents and daily commuters. Its entry into the market comes at a time when car ownership in Kenya is growing, and with it, the demand for modern service solutions.





# Kenya's Top Drivers Face-off at the AA Kenya Best Driver Challenge National Finals

Quick decision-making, vehicle control, and strong awareness of safety protocols were put to test on 19th July as Kenya's top drivers gathered at Whistling Morans Circuit for the 2025 Best Driver Challenge National Finals, an event organised by the AA Kenya, a member of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA).

Now in its third year, the competition brought together 98 finalists selected through regional qualifiers held in Eldoret, Mombasa, Nakuru, and Nairobi. The contest challenges participants to demonstrate a mix of technical driving skill and road safety knowledge.

The national finals featured a series of practical challenges, including a timed wheel change, slalom course, off-road driving, spin plate control, and emergency braking with obstacle avoidance. One of the most demanding exercises was the roll car simulation, where rear tyres are lifted onto rollers, testing a driver's ability to maintain control under shifting balance.

Each activity was designed to mirror real-life road situations. Drivers were assessed on reaction time, technical precision, decision-making, safety knowledge, and composure.

After a competitive day of trials, two standout drivers, **Charles Waweru Kung'u** and **Victor Maina** were crowned Kenya's Best Young Drivers 2025. Charles won a fully paid trip to Dubai, while Victor received a cash award. Most notably, the pair will represent Kenya at the





Best Young Driver Championship, which will be the first time the international contest will be held on African soil.

The championship will bring together national winners from across the continent as part of the FIA's broader initiative to engage young drivers and reinforce road safety principles through hands-on learning and peer-led leadership.

**Nathan Nyarangi Mweresa** secured third place in the BYD category, earning a cash reward and the 2nd runner up title for his steady performance.

The event also included two additional categories. In the Masters Category (ages 26–50), **Andrew Onwonga** claimed first place, winning a trip for two to the Maasai Mara. He was followed by **Geoffrey Ochieng Odhiambo** and **William Odino Otieno**.

In the Ladies Category, **Caren Cheptoo Kibiego** from Eldoret finished first, with **Mary Wambui Macharia** and **Purity Wanjiru** taking second and third. Winners in this category received wellness packages, spa treatments, and dinner-for-two experiences.

The Best Driver Challenge goes beyond driving skills. Participants are also tested on road safety knowledge, hazard perception, first aid, and vehicle awareness, reinforcing the event's core message: being a good driver means being a responsible one.

The Best Young Driver programme, part of a global FIA initiative, is designed to promote safer driving habits among young people. In Kenya, the programme is gaining ground, offering a competitive platform that also supports long-term road safety goals.

With the Africa Best Young Driver Championship set to be hosted in Kenya, the spotlight is now on the country's rising drivers, who are preparing to represent Kenya at the continental stage.





# Kenya's Best Driver Challenge *Photos*







## SATI GATA AURA'S 1947 MG/TC WINS 2025 AFRICA CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

By Samson Ateka

For the second year running, old boy Sati-Gata Aura continues "to ride on the crest of a wave" following brilliant displays on the continent's classiest event on wheels.

Gata-Aura's 1947 MG TC scored a total of 277 points to win the fable Africa Concours d'Elegance event which attracted over 10,000 spectators at Nairobi Racecourse.

With an apparently insatiable appetite for success, Gata-Aura racked up 37 points on the underside, 77 on external finish, 59 on interior finish, 55 on the engine, 6 on roadworthiness and 43 on age to decimate a large field of 75 car entrants.

Last year Gata-Aura won the 52nd edition of this event with his 1977 Nissan 160J in September 2024 attesting the old adage that age is nothing but a number.

James Duder's 1928 Ford Model A pick up took second overall position in the car class on 272 as Mike Duder's 1930 Essex Super Six chalked up third position on 258 points.

With several models in display, the Motorcycle Class handed fans some exhilarating displays of biking artistry; dominated by two Triumph 550SD bikes as Yamaha sealed the podium in a fierce battle for points.

Dominique Antoine's 1925 Triumph 550SD emerged the winner in Class in an event proudly sponsored by Stanbic Bank, SGA Security and AAR among others.

Meanwhile, Officials, volunteers and marshals continue to play an integral part in the success of the Concours, first held in 1971, by the Alfa Romeo Owners Club (Kenya), to celebrate their first anniversary.

Inspired by classic cars and international Concours d'Elegance events, the Concours was a success and has been held annually ever since, becoming a major motoring occasion for enthusiasts in Africa.

One prominent official who hardly goes unnoticed at the event, year in year out, is Robert Gow, a retired Two Wheel Drive rally driver, two-times winner of the concours and indeed the event's Motorcycle Chief Judge.

Gow was all smile as he returned to the 2025 edition for the umpteenth time. "I have been doing this for the last 14 years now, it's a labor of love. I won the event in 2001 and 2002. What we do basically as judges of this fantastic category of bikes, is facilitate a process to classify all bikes at category level and indeed in the overall class."



Gow highlighted: "Over the years we've had bikes of 100 years right up to 15 years, and a huge variety, which is very interesting. We do judge external finish, engine and mechanical, road worthiness and age, which is very key. Age is imperative in judging, as competitors amass points based on many other facets and on the age of respective machines, and ultimately, we find winners for various classes depending on what they score. It's always been quite exciting to have foreigners in the Concours every year, all and sundry, are eager to showcase their bikes, by and large."

This year's Concours paid tribute to the late Bob Dewar, a public relations guru and one of the brains behind the annual Africa Concours d'Elegance.

As usual, Uganda Bikers Association were among the star attractions at the event. The Uganda Bikers ride all the way from Kampala and back to grace the Concours as part of their wider campaign to promote road safety, HIV Aids Awareness and indeed Sports Tourism.

### **CAR CLASS OVERALL RESULTS**

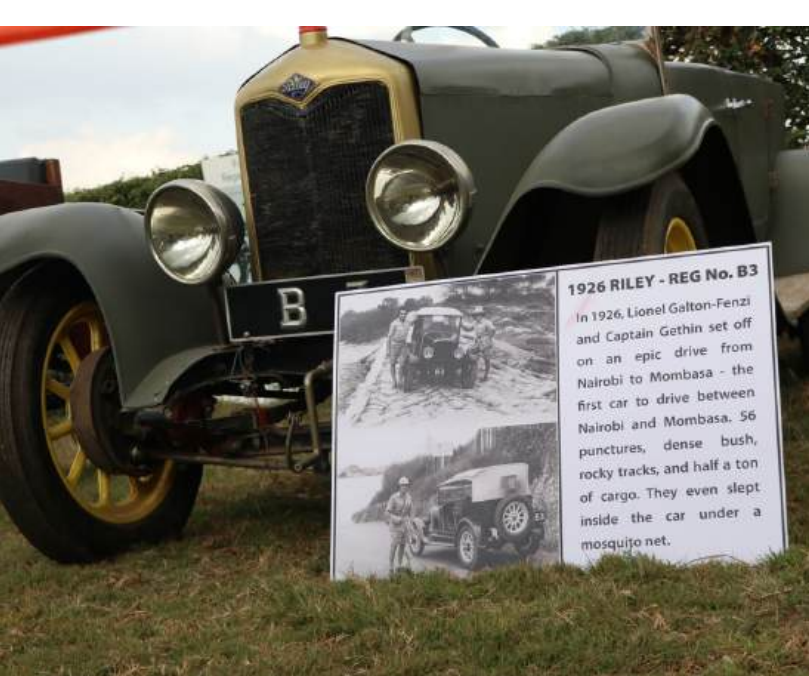
1. Sati Garta Auta	(1947 MG TC)	277 points
2. James Duder	(1928 Model A Ford Pick Up)	272 points
3. Mike Duder	(1930 Essex Super Six)	258 points

### **MOTORCYCLE OVERALL RESULTS**

1. Dominique Antoine	(1925 Triumph 550SD)	179 points
2. Rick Agagiate	(1926 Triumph 550SD)	167 points
3. Douglas Kiereini	(1980 Yamaha RD400G)	157 points
4. Tumaini Muthiga	(1985 Honda VFR)	154 points
5. Dominique Antoine	(BSA B33)	151 points





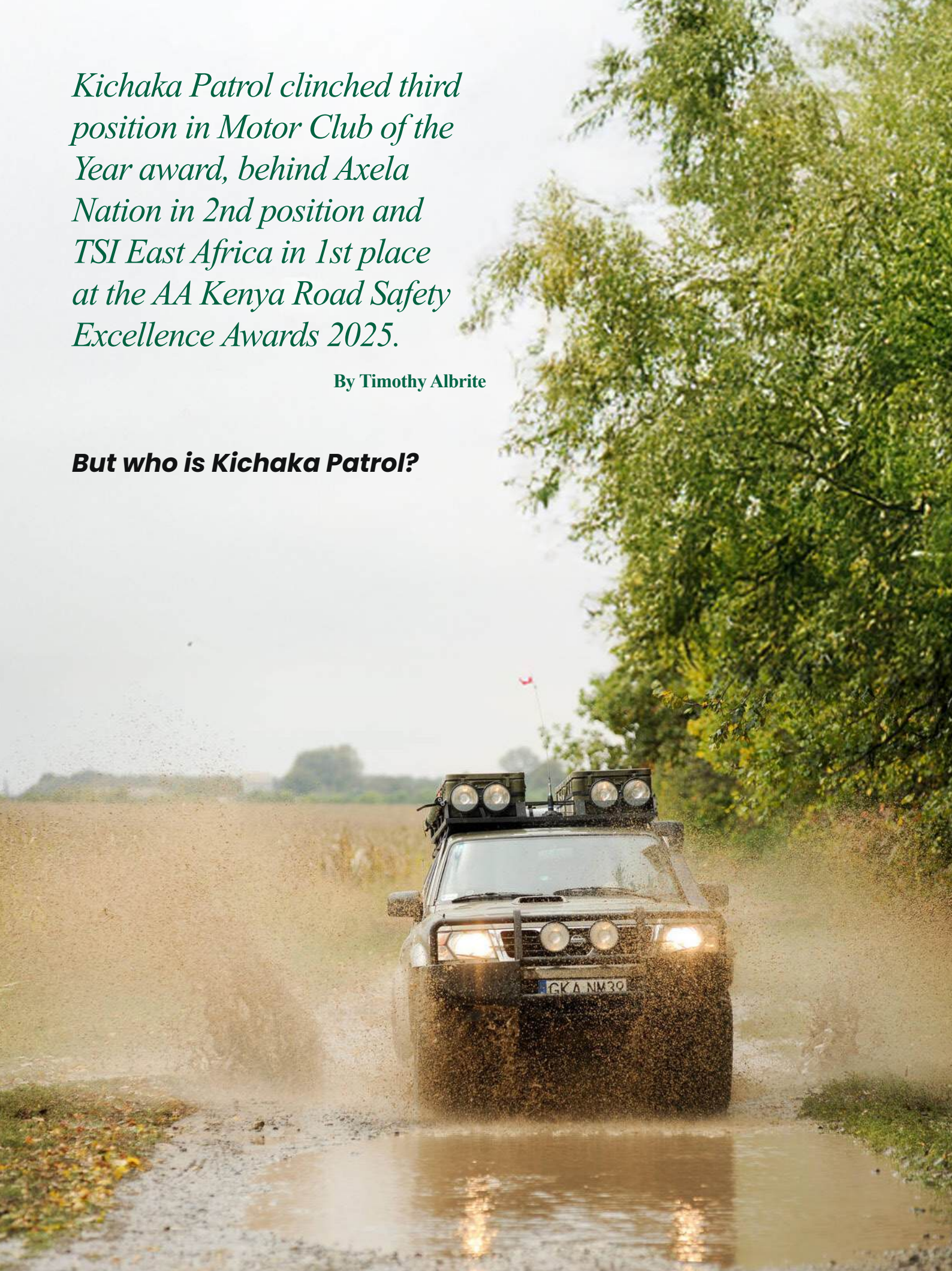




*Kichaka Patrol clinched third position in Motor Club of the Year award, behind Axela Nation in 2nd position and TSI East Africa in 1st place at the AA Kenya Road Safety Excellence Awards 2025.*

**By Timothy Albrite**

***But who is Kichaka Patrol?***







**A**t first glance, Kichaka Patrol is a club for off-road adventurers who love their Nissan Patrols. But behind the shiny 4x4s is a group of men and women who have turned their passion into a mission: taking road safety, healthcare, education, and dignity to communities far beyond the tarmac.

One of their biggest efforts is focused on road safety for bodaboda riders and school children. In places like Naibor, Logarate, Suguta Marmar and Maralal, children ride on motorbikes to get to school. For many families, it is the only way to cover long distances quickly. But too often, these trips are risky because neither the riders nor the children have helmets. Accidents are common, and the consequences can be devastating.

That is where Kichaka Patrol has stepped in. Club members have distributed more than a thousand helmets to riders and children, often in schools and local markets. They don't just give helmets, they teach people why it matters, showing how a simple helmet can mean the difference between life and death in a crash. Local health workers have already noticed fewer serious head injuries in these areas since the program began.

The statistics show why this work matters. Bodaboda accidents account for more than one in three road deaths in Kenya. In 2022 alone, over 1,200 people lost their lives in motorbike crashes. Between 2018 and 2023, more than 8,400 deaths involved motorcycles, either riders or passengers. In the first months of 2025, bodabodas were linked to nearly half of all road fatalities.

By bringing helmets and safety awareness into villages, Kichaka Patrol is saving lives especially among children. One rider shared that after a fall, the helmet he had received from the club spared him from a serious head injury. Stories like this are becoming more common.

The club also practices what it preaches. Its members run forums where they remind each other to obey speed limits and road rules, even when they are off-road. They know setting the right example helps spread a culture of safety.

And their work goes even further. The group has taken medical camps, food, sanitary towels, clothing, and school supplies to some of the hardest-to-reach counties Samburu, Laikipia, Marsabit, Turkana, and Baringo. Their motto says it best: "Where the tarmac ends, our work starts."

Kichaka Patrol's third-place win at the AA Kenya Road Safety Excellence Awards is proof that adventure and community service can go hand in hand. They may be off-roaders at heart, but on the ground, they are also lifesavers.







# AA AUTOCLINIC

## MORE THAN JUST A SERVICE!



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Ndereba Road**



**Be Energy Petrol Station  
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- ✓ Engine Service
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