



Secure In The Car, Safe On The Road



Newsletter
January 2022
Volume 1,
Issue 1

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Celebrating the First Anniversary of the Nicole Foundation: Using Youth Voices to Advocate for Road Safety



*Nicole Blessing Ahumuza Rubondo (RIP)
26th June 2003 - 18th January 2020*

Ms. Allen Kagina, the Executive Director of the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) decried the persistent vandalism of road signage to notify motorists of any impending danger, which contributes to the carnage on Uganda’s roads. She made this call as the Chief Guest during the launch the Nicole Foundation (NF) on 17th July 2021. The NF is a road safety initiative with the main objective of promoting secure use of vehicles and safety on the road, especially among the youth.

The foundation among other objectives seeks to leverage young people’s voices in contributing to the campaign for road safety; promote, and contribute to, policies, laws, and regulations that govern road traffic in Uganda and provide a platform for the remembrance of Nicole’s tremendous friendship, spirit, and leadership potential.

“Mr. Patrick Mweheire, the Chairperson Council of Advisors of the Nicole Foundation revealed that the family and friends of the late Nicole agreed to remember her short but impactful life by establishing a road safety Founda-

tion. On 18th January, 2020, a fatal road accident in Kasese district claimed the life of Ms. Nicole Ahumuza Rubondo at the age of sixteen.

“Formation of this Foundation was announced at a memorial service held on the 17th January 2021, and the planning for its establishment commenced then, and has now been concluded. The Foundation is fully registered with the NGO Board as a Not-for-Profit organisation,” he said.

Commissioner of Police Lawrence Niwabiine, the Ag. Director/ Traffic and Road Safety in the Uganda Police Force while making a presentation at the virtual launch said he was pleased with the objectives of the Nicole Foundation which were critical in enforcing road safety.

“According to Uganda Police statistics, over 3,500 people die in road crashes every year in Uganda. Of these, over

2,000 are below the age of 30 implying that this is the most vulnerable group,” said Niwabiine.

In order to enhance the achievement of its objectives, the Nicole Foundation is collaborating with partners who share similar objectives to leverage efforts in enhancing road safety in Uganda.

“As part of the collaboration strategy, engagements for partnerships have been held with the Uganda Traffic Police, Uganda Insurers Association, VIVO Energy Uganda Limited (TWEDEKO), TONDEKA bus service and the Basic Emergency Life Skills (BELS) an association of Doctors for road safety”, revealed Mr. Mweheire.

The Nicole Foundation has established a governance structure, is registered with the Uganda Registration Services Bureau, and was granted an operational permit as a non-governmental organisation by the NGO Board .



Ms. Allen Kagina (second left) presides over the launch of the Nicole Foundation

The Nicole Foundation in partnership with the Uganda Insurers Association donated and distributed medical and domestic items to over 150 accident victims of road accidents in two accident wards at Mulago National Referral Hospital (MNRH). The event was held on 1st September 2021 and the items donated included Wheelchairs, Clutches cervical collars, social braces together with hampers household items

The accident victims in the wards together with the hospital staff expressed appreciation for the thought and the donation. The event highlighted the importance of doing everything possible to avoid the occurrence of accidents and therefore avoiding being victim to negatively life changing accidents.



Solomon Ahumuza, a Nicole Foundation Volunteer hands over medical items to accident victims in Mulago hospital

Motorcyclists Urged to Respect Road Safety Measures



Linda Ankunda, a Volunteer with Nicole Foundation at the training of motorcyclists in Namuwongo, Kampala.

The Nicole Foundation joined Vivo Energy Uganda in holding a road safety training for motorcyclists in Namuwongo, Kampala, on 17th December 2021, as part of activities to mark the 6th United Nations Global Road Safety Week. The training was delivered by the Integrated Transport system and focused on creating road safety awareness for the Motorcyclists.

The training was held at the beginning of the 2021/22 festive season in recognition that this is time of the year, when the highest number of road accidents are

registered. Over seventy (70) motorcyclists attended the half-day training during which there were urged to be mindful of road users and take road safety seriously.

Some of the aspects covered during the training included accidents (basic accident data, causes of boda boda crashes, effects of boda-boda accidents), avoidance (prevention of road crashes), use of helmets (role of helmets, nonuse baseline findings on helmet use in Uganda, proper use of helmets, care of helmets) and defensive riding (the high way code

legal requirements for safe riding hazard perception vulnerability, defensive riding elements, speeding, distraction, drug use and general indiscipline on the road).

The Nicole Foundation plans to conduct a similar activity with specific focus on road safety in black spots identified along Mukono to Busitema and Kyengera to Masaka roads

Safety on the Road: Black Spots

The Foundation is partnering with Vivo Energy to identify, describe and alert drivers about black spots on roads in Uganda. Two road stretches, Mukono to Busitema and Kyengera to Masaka, have been identified as some of the most notorious black spots which need to be publicized. A risk analysis of the two roads has been undertaken, and the black spots on the two roads identified and ranked.



The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was commemorated on 21st November 2021 with a theme; Remember, Support, Act. The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was started by Road Peace in 1993 and in 2005, the United Nations endorsed it as a global day to be observed every third Sunday in November each year, as the “appropriate acknowledgment for victims of road traffic injuries and their families”.

While presiding over the event, General Katumba, the Minister of Works and Transport General Katumba Wamala emphasized that the Governments is taking concerted efforts to reduce the number of accident victims in the country by 2030.

During the event, some road accident victims shared their experiences of loss and recovery, and the Nicole Foundation made a presentation about the background of the foundation and its objectives. Interreligious leaders led prayers



General Katumba Wamala with volunteers from the Nicole Foundation

and a candle-lighting session in remembrance of the lost souls.

The event ended with a rallying call for drivers to prepare themselves before they drive, prepare their cars and bikes, and prepare themselves with prayer daily. The event was organized by: the Ministry of Works and Transport, Safe Way

Right Way Uganda, Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), and Uganda Professional Drivers Network who were joined with various road safety stakeholders such as Uganda Redcross Society, Transaid Organisation, the Nicole Foundation and Safe roads Uganda, among others.

News in Pictures



Road safety event organized by the Ministry of Works and Transport and Uganda Insurer's Association (UIA) for bus owners in Uganda. The meeting which was held on the 21st September 2021 discussed a road safety plan to be used for training bus owners, boda boda riders and taxi drivers.



Annual Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly on 27th November 2021



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Background

Nicole Ahumuza RUBONDO, 16, died on 18th January 2020 following a road accident in Kasese District during her Senior 4 academic vacation. The painful loss of the life of Nicole can never be described by any amount of words.

During her short life on Earth, Nicole distinguished herself extraordinarily. From a very young age, her conduct both at home, the neighborhood, the church and school demonstrated admirable leadership qualities underlined by both passion and compassion. For those that attended her burial at the ancestral home in Mbiriizi, Lwengo District, the eulogies and testimonies demonstrated a stark acknowledgement that the family, friends, schoolmates and those who knew Nicole had lost an extremely promising friend and citizen.

The circumstances of Nicole's death made it even more painful. Like many fatal accidents, there was not an opportunity for an attempt to save her life. What was left therefore is constant and endless wonder on what could have been, and a constant evaluation of the things that went wrong, or those that could have been avoided. This evaluation will surely remain in the minds of everyone that shared the life of Nicole.

Against the above background therefore, the NICOLE FOUNDATION has been established.

Partner With Us

The Nicole Foundation greatly appreciates all the friends, relatives, partners and well-wishers for the very generous and voluntary support, together with the contribution of their time, ideas and resources. This support and contributions enabled the Foundation to be established fully and quickly and have also enabled the Foundation to start and continue activities in fulfilment of its objectives. Special thanks to the Council of Advisors and the Board of Trustees for the voluntary support and guidance this far, together with the Management for all the tireless and voluntary work. The NF still needs support and contributions to continue the work started and the more to be done. May the God Lord Continue to Bless and Guide All of us.

How to Donate

ONLINE

- ◆ Go to the website www.nicolefoundation.org
- ◆ Click on the donate button
- ◆ Specify payment method (either visa or mobile money)
- ◆ Follow the prompts to fill required info

DIRECT BANK TRANSFER

- ◆ Account Name: Nicole Foundation
- ◆ Bank and Branch: Stanbic Bank, Garden City Branch
- ◆ UGX Account number: 9030018967374
- ◆ USD Account number: 9030019117706
- ◆ Mobile Money contributions to: 0776902307

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