



**Newsletter  
April 2022  
Volume 1, Issue 2**

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**Gen. Katumba Wamala: Road Safety is a Joint Responsibility for all Stakeholders**

Gen. Katumba Wamala, the Minister of Works and Transport emphasized that addressing road safety requires concerted efforts among all stakeholders. He made this call, on 16th January 2022 at St. Marks Church, Entebbe, while officiating at the two-fold celebration to commemorate the life of the late Nicole Blessing Ahumuza Rubondo and to mark one year since announcement of the Nicole Foundation, a road safety initiative in her memory.

“Uganda should aspire to be one of the safest countries to drive in the world. The statistics point to the fact that road safety is not getting the necessary attention that it deserves. With the travel related restrictions during the COVID 19 pandemic, as a country we are still recording a worrying number of road accidents. Government is therefore, committed to working with partners like the Nicole Foundation to fight this scourge”, General Katumba said.

The highest number of deaths (747) resulting from the COVID 19 in Uganda was recorded during June 2021. Comparatively, during September 2021, with the curfew and related travel restrictions, the country registered total of 1,407 accidents, out of these 229 people died and 1,054 people were injured.

The anniversary event also featured an exhibition by some of the Foundation’s partners like Uganda Road Accident Reduction Network Organization (URRENO) and Tondeka Bus Services, and also included a memorial service led by Reverend Steven Bامتونغire.

Speaking as one of the partners of the foundation, Mr. Kevin Short, the Head of Technology at Tondeka Bus Services said that they planned to launch the metropolitan bus service in Kampala. “The first fleet of 260 buses is expected to be on the road in July 2022, with a target of 1000 buses by the end of the year. We are partnering with the Nicole Foundation to run road safety awareness campaigns both on our buses, stations and among road users”, he added.

The event was attended by friends and family of the late Nicole, partners and volunteers of the Nicole Foundation and various other key stakeholders. In attendance was Mr. Patrick Mweheire and Mr. Peter Kimbowa, Advisors to the

Nicole Foundation, Mr. Asan Kasingye, the Assistant IGP and Chief Political Commissar of the Uganda Police Force, and Mr. Paul Kavuma, CEO Uganda Insurers Association.

Ms. Tracy Rubondo thanked guests and stakeholders for supporting the work of the Foundation. “We appreciate all our friends and partners for joining us to honor the memory of my sister, the late Nicole. We aim to uphold her legacy through the work of the Nicole Foundation, so that even while she is no longer with us, she still has an impact. Today’s event is representative of milestones achieved in the Nicole Foundation’s first year of operation, and the prospects with our partners.”

The anniversary was preceded by a training and awareness campaign for boda boda riders at Abait’Ababiri along the Kampala-Entebbe Highway. This training, which was jointly arranged and sponsored by URRENO, UIA and the Foundation was held on 15th January 2022.



*(Above) Gen. Katumba Wamala visits the exhibition; (Below) Nicole’s classmates from Kings College Budo with Gen. Wamala, Mr. Partrick Mweheire and Mr. Ernest Rubondo; during the first anniversary Nicole Foundation Anniversary event on 16th January 2022 in Entebbe*



On 9th March 2022, the Nicole Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Innovation Village through the FutureLab studios to launch a road safety hackathon campaign aimed at promoting road safety through innovation and use of technology to deliver practical solutions.

Speaking at the launch, Ms. Judith Karara, the Principal Safety Officer at the Ministry of Works and Transport, said that the statistics from road traffic crashes are alarming, and the 2020 Annual Crime report, indicated that road safety is a significant public health concern and rapidly growing socio-economic burden in Uganda. “Together, road crashes, injuries and fatalities can be preventable with proper education on road usage, strong regulatory policies and enforcement, good road infrastructure and SMART road technologies.” Karara emphasized.

According to Mr. Arthur Mukembo, Lead FutureLab studios at the Innovation Village, this Road Safety hackathon intends to challenge innovators and tech enthusiasts to come-up with solutions that ensures the safety of individuals on the road. “The hackathon will identify market-ready scalable tech-enable solutions that will enhance safety on the road. The winners of the hackathon will be selected on: strong alignment to the Nicole Foundation’s Wheel of Offering, inventiveness of the solution, feasibility and scalability of the idea, and finally the quality and comprehensiveness of the pitch.”

Mr. Solomon Rubondo, a member of the Council of Advisors of the Nicole Foundation said, the Foundation was established in commemoration of the late Nicole Blessing Ahumuza Rubondo who passed away in a fatal car accident in Kasese at the age of 16. “To support the organization vision, we came-up with a Wheel of Offering with eight pillars which seek to ensure road safety and guidance. These include: - Safety before you travel, when with family or relatives, when you are the driver, when you are a passenger, when an accident happens, when you travel with public transport, after the accident, and during recovery and wellness. And it is from these eight pillars that the solutions from the road safety hackathon will be developed.”

To curb the issue of road safety, we need to work with different stakeholders like innovators, young people and organizations within the transport sector to promote the use technology to end the scourge of unsafe roads in Uganda and the world at large, Rubondo emphasized .



*Representatives from the Innovation Village, Nicole Foundation and Ministry of Works at the Hackathon Launch in March 2022*

The application period run between 9th to 31st March 2022 for young tech enthusiasts to participate in the Road Safety hackathon Challenge. Seventeen (17) builders were hosted to a two-day (11th and 12th April 2022) workshop to hack ideas on leveraging tech to improve road safety. The winning team, 1st and 2nd runners-up were Taasa, Eagle Eye, and Green Streets, respectively.

The winning team will receive a 13-weeks training to build concepts, enroll into the next cohort of Future Lab Studio’s flagship Soar program and opportunity to pitch to Angel and Venture Capital investors on completion of the Soar program.



*Some of the young innovators during the hackathon workshop in April 2022.*

# Jo Walker Campaign: Focusing on Cyclists and Pedestrians



The Nicole Foundation participated in the “Jo Walker Road Safety Campaign”, spearheaded by Joseph Beyanga from the Nation Media Group. The goal of the campaign was to sensitize road users to stay in their lanes so as to avoid road crashes.

On the 28th February 2022, Joseph Beyanga and a group of supporters set off from Nation Media Group offices in Namwongo for a 320km journey to Bushenyi which lasted approximately ten days. The walk was inspired by the difficulty pedestrians face while walking in busy areas where motorists and cyclists are discourteous to pedestrians who make up 38% of road accident victims. Ms. Linda Ankunda, represented the Foundation at the flag-off of the campaign, which was officiated by Mr. Tony Glencross, the Managing Director of Nation Media Group. A group of volunteers from the Foundation joined the walk on 2nd March 2022 at Nkozi (Kayabwe) along Kampala-Masaka Road, where they also participated in a community radio talkshow on road safety. The Nicole Foundation is working with the Uganda Insurers Association to implement road safety activities at Kayabwe along the Kampala-Masaka highway to support the trauma center at Nkozi Hospital where most accident victims along the highway are taken for first treatment.

Other activities carried out included zebra crossing painting at black spots, radio talk shows to create awareness, tree planting, and road activations. The walk was also supported by several organizations including Coca Cola, Tugende, Vivo Energy, UNRA, Uganda Red Cross Society, Nation Media Group. In addition, the Nicole Foundation contributed 50 reflector jackets and refreshments to the Jo Walker Campaign.



(Above) Flag off of the Jo Walker Campaign, and (Below) Joe Beyanga (left) with Arthur Lubega and Abdul Mugisha of the NF at Kayabwe along the Kampala-Masaka Highway



## IN THE NEWS





Secure In The Car, Safe On The Road



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## OUR TEAM

The governance structure of the Nicole foundation is made up of the Council of advisors, the Board of trustees, and the management staff .

### Council of Advisors

- Mr. Partrick Mweheire, Chair
- Dr. Peter Kimbowa
- Mr. Paul Kavuma
- Ms. Gertrude Karugaba
- Mr. Solomon Rubondo

### Board of Trustees

- Prof. Henry Alinaitwe Mwanaki
- Ms. Catherine Poran
- Mr. Peter Kyambade

### Management Team

- Mr. Cuthbert Kagabo
- Mr. Arthur Lubega
- Ms. Daisy Oloka Nyamon
- Mr. Collins Nyombi
- Ms. Tracy Ahwera Rubondo

## Partner With Us



## How to Donate

### ONLINE

- ◆ Go to the website [www.nicolefoundation.org](http://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

ACCIDENT BRINGS  
TEARS  
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