



**Newsletter  
March 2023  
Volume 2, Issue 1**

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**Second Anniversary; Road Safety Advocates Call for Stiffer Measures to Deter Accidents**

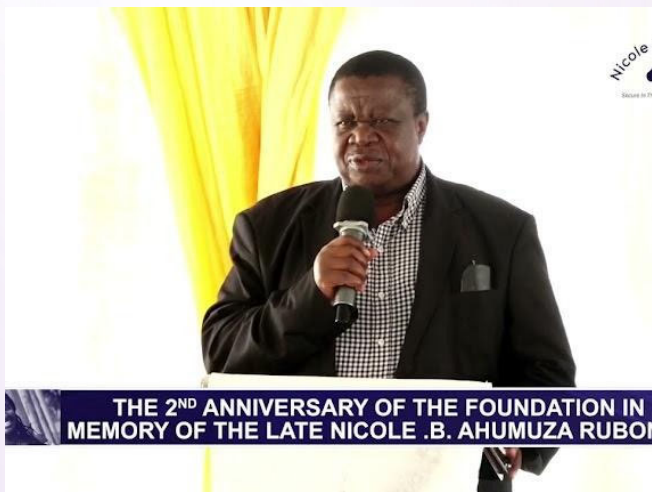
Major General (Retired) Kahinda Otafiire, the Minister of Internal Affairs called for tougher measures to be put in place to check on the “upside down mentality” exhibited by drivers on the roads, which results in nearly 3,000 fatalities annually, according to the last published police crime report.

look forward to continuing to partner with them during the years to come,” she said.

In a speech read for him, Mr. Fabrice Rulinda, the Mayor of Entebbe expressed willingness to work with the Foundation to improve aspects of road safety within Entebbe Municipality. “There is need to enhance the safety on our improving road network. For instance, the number of accidents near Victoria Mall is on the increase due to inadequate design of the roundabout. This needs to be addressed by UNRA”.

According to a 2018 International Road Assessment Programme study, road carnage costs Uganda over UGX 4 trillion annually. The country, the study showed, loses UGX 215m for every fatality and UGX 53m for every serious injury.

The Nicole Foundation is a road safety not-for profit organisation, started in memory of the late Nicole Blessing Ahumuza Rubondo, who died in a car accident in January 2020 in Kasese District. The foundation advocates for road safety through advocacy campaigns, including mapping out of blackspots on all major roads.



*Gen. Otafiire addresses the second anniversary event.*

He made these remarks during an event to mark the second anniversary of the Nicole Foundation, that was held on 15th January 2023 at St. Marks Church in Entebbe.

“There is a lot of foolishness on the road. Let’s look for stiff measures to deter these crashes. But of course, there is no stiffer punishment than death. People need to learn that you are driving a machine, which does what you tell it to do, and unfortunately, there is usually a lot of innocent lives that are lost due to this foolishness,” he said. Gen. Otafiire appreciated the work of the Nicole Foundation, and appealed to the Foundation to expand its activities in terms of scope and coverage.

Speaking on behalf of the Foundation, Ms. Lindah Ankunda recognised the importance of partnerships in tackling road safety.

“Several like-minded partners have accepted to join hands with the Nicole Foundation, including the Uganda Police Force, Ministry of Works and Transport, Uganda Insurers Association (UIA), VIVO Energy, Tondeka Metro Bus Service, Innovation Village, and the Uganda Road Accident Reduction Network Organization (URRENO). We are grateful for their support, and



*Volunteers from the Nicole Foundation during the Second Anniversary celebrations*

## Motorcycle Riders Acquire Defensive Driving Skills

The Nicole Foundation in partnership with Uganda Road Accident Reduction Network Organisation (URRENO), organised a defensive riding training for eighty seven (87) Boda boda (commercial motorcycle) riders from Kitooro in Entebbe Municipality on 14th January 2023. The objective of the training was to raise awareness on the need for attitude and behaviour change, as a means of curing accidents and fatalities on the road.

Mr. Fred Tumwine, the Executive Director of URRENO, thanked participants for the enthusiasm to improve their defensive driving skills. “Poor road use is the leading cause of crashes involving motorcycle users, who are the highest number of victims at the hospitals and health centers. Be compliant with the regulations, and always avoid distractions while riding”, he advised the participants.

Uganda is one of the most exposed countries in the world regarding Road Traffic Crashes. The fatality rate of 29 deaths per 100,000 population (WHO, 2018) is an extremely disturbing figure for Uganda with only 1,500,000 vehicles registered. The average fatality rate per 100,000 population for Africa is 26.6, and that for Europe is 9.3.

“The socio-economic cost of road trauma in Uganda represents an estimated 5% of Uganda’s Gross Domestic Product, an extraordinary burden on our economy. In the absence of inadequate data collection, management, analysis and reporting system, these figures are extremely sketchy.

Eng. Cuthbert Isingoma, one of the facilitators of the training cautioned that poor road use is the leading cause of crashes involving motorcycle users who are the highest

number of victims on the roads. He outlined the correct process of acquiring a driving license, following a revelation that only two (2) of the eighty-seven (87) participants had the license.

Mr. Abdul Mugisha, on behalf of the Nicole Foundation, thanked participants for attending the training, and assured them of the readiness of the Foundation to cooperate with riders for future trainings and interventions on road safety.

URRENO is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) dedicated to the promotion of the “Safe System” context, providing advice on each of the Safe System pillars (road safety management, safe roads, safe speeds, safe vehicles, safe road users, and post-crash care) while recognizing that evidence-based solutions must be drawn from across pillars to produce effective road safety outcomes.



*Participants in the training on defensive driving held in Kitooro, Entebbe Municipality*

## Walking for Road Safety

For the second year running, the Nicole Foundation supported Mr. Joseph Beyanga, aka, Joe Walker, of National Media Group, in a campaign to raise awareness about road safety.

This year’s campaign saw Joe walker and friends trek 220 kilometers to Mbale in five days. While flagging off the campaign in Kampala, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament called on all Ugandans to individually join the campaign against the carnage on the roads.

“Road accidents require public mobilisation. As Ugandans, regardless of our positions, we must come together and fight back. We are all in this together,” Hon. Tayebwa said.

The Joe Walker Campaign involves several activities in-

cluding community drives in trading centers, taxi parks, schools and radio stations to call on the general public to join the fight against road accidents.

The Nicole Foundation had previously participated in community sensitisation activities in Kayabwe, along the Masaka Highway during the 2022 edition of the Jo Walker campaign from Kampala to Bushenyi.

According to WHO, 1.3 million people around the world die due to accidents each year and between 20 and 50 million people are left with non-fatal injuries. Developing economies record higher rates of road traffic injuries, with 93 percent of fatalities coming from low- and middle-income countries such as Uganda.

## The Nicole Foundation Partners with International Road Safety Organisations

The Nicole Foundation participated in the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI), workshop on advocating for safer speed policies in Uganda, that was organised by Global Road safety Partnership (GRSP) and Uganda Road Accident Reduction Network Organisation (URRENO) from 14th to 17th March 2023 in Kampala.

The objective of the workshop was to support the Road Safety Advocacy Coalition Uganda (ROSACU) with developing an effective media advocacy plan to support the road safety campaign on safer speed policies.

The workshop, which was attended by Over 100 participants from members of URRENO and GRSP also reviewed the progress on the objectives set in 2022 and discussed the current state of road safety advocacy, and agreed upon a shared action plan for 2023 to support budget advocacy

Ms. Jackie Okoa, the GHAI country representative emphasised that the GRSP, as a coalition, can bring together the collective effort of individual road safety organisations and initiatives to address the five (5) key risk factors of Speed, drink driving, Helmet use, seat belt and child restraint.

“Uganda requires a joint National implementation structure, other than clustered organization in road safety”, she added. The participants in the workshop established key Advocacy points in reference to key areas on Speed (limit), Helmet use and financing for Advocacy, among other initiatives for 2023.

The Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) is a non-profit or-

ganization that was formed in 1999 in response to global recognition of road crash deaths and injuries as a human-made health crisis. The GRSP is hosted by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and works by forming partnerships between the private sector, civil society and governments to apply best practice road safety policy and practice, primarily in low- and middle-income countries.

Relatedly, the Nicole Foundation joined the Road Safety Advocacy Coalition Uganda, and the Global Youth Coalition Uganda. This membership provides an opportunity to engage with other of Road safety actors and advocate for change through the application of grants for road safety to implement strategic youth related programming.



### Walking for Road Safety



Flagging off of the Joe Walker Campaign on Road Safety Awareness by Rt. Hon. Thomas Tayebwa. The Nicole Foundation was represented by Mr. Abdul Mugisha (Volunteer), and Mr. Paul Kavuma (member of the Council of Advisors)

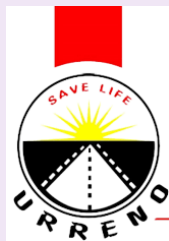
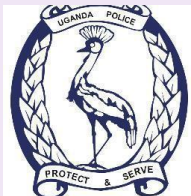


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**OUR PARTNERS**



**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

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