

## Every Life Counts: Gen Katumba Wamala Calls for Unity in Upholding Road Safety

General Katumba Wamala at the commemoration event

General Katumba Wamala, the Minister of Works and Transport, made a call to action for all Ugandans to play a role in improving road safety. He made this call at a memorial event to mark the World Day of Remembrance for road traffic crash victims that was held on 17th November 2024 at Namayiba Park in Kampala. The event was organized by Uganda Professional Drivers Network (UPDN) and the Road Safety Advocacy Coalition Uganda (ROSACU).

"As we reflect on the devastating impact of road accidents, everybody has a share of the burden in combatting this scourge, which is on a sharp rise in Uganda." He further pointed out that the increasing fatalities, with 4,635 deaths in 2023 and 3,241 already in 2024, demonstrate the urgent need for action. "We must address this global crisis together," he said.

As part of the United Nations' initiative, Uganda has pledged to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030. However, the minister stressed that this could only be achieved through collective responsibility. "It is not enough to rely on law enforcement alone; each road user must adhere to traffic laws and exercise caution."

Gen. Katumba Wamala also pressed for broader involvement of corporate enti-

ties, media, and religious bodies to advocate for road safety. He commended organizations like the Nile Breweries, NBS Television, and the Inter-Religious Council for their collaboration, but stressed the importance of greater involvement, mostly because the Christmas period is fast approaching.

Another important component is strategic travel planning during the holiday period to avoid the last-minute rush. Transport companies should play a crucial role in reducing driver fatigue, a known risk factor, by the application of relief driver systems.

Mr. Lawrance Nuwabiine, the Director of Traffic and Road Safety highlighted the efforts of the Traffic Police, who, through research and data collection,

have gathered essential information on road safety. "Pedestrians take the second place in road accident deaths after motorcyclists, this includes those doing businesses on the roadside."

He added that road users are human beings, who need a comprehensive monitoring system to change their behaviour. "It is not enough to build good roads and put-up signposts. Many road users need to see enforcement for them to behave responsibly."

Religious leaders present, including Msgr. Charles Kasibante the Vicar General of the Kampala Archdiocese, and Sheikh Mohammed Ali Waiswa from the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, emphasised that the Ugandans should remember to make God their priority when travelling.



Participants at the commemoration event





## Joe Walker Remembrance Road Safety Relay Walk 2024

Dennis Onyango flags off participants in the Jo Walker annual road safety walk.

The Joe Walker Road Safety Relay Walk is an annual walk that commemorates lives lost to road crashes globally. This year's walk, which was held on 17th November 2024, drew over three hundred participants from diverse backgrounds, including families, survivors of road crashes, and individuals walking in memory of loved ones lost to road accidents. The event underscored the urgent need for safer roads in Uganda and celebrated the spirit of community and resilience among participants.

Key partners for the 2024 edition included Nicole Foundation, Jubilee Allianz, Nation Media Group, Sheraton Hotel Kampala, Coca-Cola Beverages Uganda and the Uganda Police Force.

The ceremonial flag off was presided

over by the Uganda Cranes Football team legend and African football star, Dennis Onyango, who called for more vigilance by all road users.

John Ssembogo reclaimed his title as the fastest walker, completing the sixty kilometers in under nine hours. Mr. Ssembogo walked most of the journey alone due to his terrific speed, to honor his brothers who were involved in and killed during road crashes.

In the women's category, Resty Nabatte, Busingye Jacqueline and Stella Kamukumi who walked the sixty kilometers as a pack and were jointly awarded.

Team awards were presented to the best performing teams in the 3-member (20 kilometers each) and 6-member (10 kilometers each) categories. Team Priscilla

and Team Trail Blazers won in the twenty kilometers and sixty kilometers respectively.

The Joe Walker Remembrance Road Safety Relay Walk 2024 was a resounding success, bringing together over three hundred participants to champion road safety. Despite challenges such as poor road conditions and reckless driving, the event highlighted the collective power of community action in advocating for change.

"With continued collaboration, awareness, and advocacy, we can make significant strides towards achieving the UN General Assembly's goal of reducing road traffic deaths by 50% by 2030. Together, we will ensure that every journey ends safely." Joe "Walker" Beyanga





A volunteer from NF at the Fundraising event

## Private Sector Champions the TOFIIRA KU KKUBO Campaign

The Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) together with partners held a fundraising drive in August 2024 for the “Tofira ku Kkubo” road safety awareness campaign.

During the event, Mr. Asimwe Stephen, the CEO-PSFU said that the private sector has a role to play in advocacy, contributing financial resources and being influencers of road safety through the media and any other platforms. “I would like to add my voice to the initiative of the Transport and Logistics sector under PSFU to urge you to make a statement by contributing towards this road safety awareness campaign”, he told participants.

The Uganda Professional Drivers Network (UPDN), in collaboration with the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) and Safe Boda together with other stakeholders, launched a youth road safety awareness campaign “Tofira Ku Kkubo” on 20th November 2023.

The campaign aims to reduce road crashes involving young people by at least 20% by March 2025 through defensive riding and driving skills training, media campaigns, and capacity building. The start of the campaign, funded by PSFU (Mastercard Foundation), UPDN, Marine Time Cargo, Nicole Foundation Uganda and SWICO, currently seeking additional resources to expand its impact.

Eng. Edward Kizito from the Ministry of Works and Transport emphasised the importance of Government and the Private sector working together to achieve safer roads in Uganda, as is envisioned in the National Road Safety Action Plan 2020/21-2025/26.

“Since Japan manufactures most vehicles on the Ugandan roads, it is within our interest as the Japanese Government to support innovations to improve road safety globally, more so in developing countries,” said His Excellency Sas-

ayama Takuya, the Japanese Ambassador in Uganda.

The road safety situation in Uganda is alarming, with road traffic crashes being a leading cause of death among young people aged 15–29 years. Approximately thirteen people are killed and twenty-six seriously injured in about forty crashes daily, resulting in a fatality rate of twenty-nine deaths per 100,000 population, one of the highest globally. Vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, and cyclists, who are the most affected, with motorcycles accounting for over 49% of fatal crashes.

Young people below 35 years are impacted due to their reliance on motorcycles for transportation and livelihood without proper training or safety precautions. The socio-economic cost of road trauma in Uganda is significant, representing an estimated 5% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).





## Rotary Club of Entebbe Joins the Road Safety Advocacy

The Rotary Club of Entebbe Base launched the Boda Boda road safety campaign to address the increasing number of accidents by acquiring knowledge from the road safety enforcers. The Launch event which was held at Katabi Town Council offices in Entebbe on 14th September 2024, was attended by over 60 Boda Boda riders.

ASP Wycliffe Tumwesigye, the Entebbe traffic commander cautioned the Boda Boda riders to have safety at the core. "Do not cross in the middle of the road but rather go through a designated area. Do not over speed because you are putting the passengers at risk, and do not overload, especially with school children as this puts them at the risk of losing their lives" he said.

The campaign is aimed at sensitizing the motorists on safety precautions while on the road especially along Entebbe Road, and is held under the Theme: Safety on the Road is a responsibility we all share. Edward Kizito from the Ministry of Works and Transport, said the campaign is in line with the Ministry's plan to roll out road safety awareness projects across the country with the motorists to help curb accidents.

While handing over reflector jackets through the Chairman of the riders, Ms. Barbara Nekesa, the president of the Rotary Club of Entebbe Base thanked the Boda Boda leadership for the great mo-

bilization of fellow members and assured them that the road safety campaign will go a long way to ensure that road users are aware of all the necessary road safety precautions.

Ms. Marble Tomusange, a road safety expert from Consult Africa Usalama urged the Boda Boda riders to strengthen their leadership structures in order to lobby for support from the Government. "According to the Uganda Traffic Report, close to 50% of the road crashes are attributed to Boda Bodas. It is, therefore, important for all riders to embrace road safety measures."

Mr. Kyamanywa Robert, from the Nicole

Foundation, urged the Boda Boda riders to always prioritize safety while on the road. "Ensure that you have the required safety gear such as helmets, safety boots, reflectors, and a rider's permit. Remember to respect the Road Traffic Rules and Regulations and have enough rest to avoid riding with fatigue.

At least three to four boda boda riders are knocked on Entebbe Road due to reckless road use, according to Entebbe Referral Hospital. In Uganda, the Boda-Boda industry employs an estimated 250,000 youths and a source of livelihood to over 500,000 people in the country.





# Nicole Foundation Milestones

## Annual Report

The Nicole Foundation's Annual Report for July 2023 to June 2024 was completed and submitted to the NGO Bureau on 01st November 2024. The Annual Report included an Audit Report, Certificate of data protection, among other requirements. The Foundation is delighted to have concluded this submission in a timely manner especially as it enhances good standing with the regulator.

## Data protection Certificate

NF was granted a Certificate of Personal Data Protection on 31st October 2024. The certificate which is a requirement of the NGO Board is a confirmation and commitment of the Foundation to collect, process and manage data in accordance with the Uganda Personal Data Protection and Privacy Act (2019) and Regulations (2021). This certificate is an additional good practice certification which the Foundation holds.



## The New, Redesigned, Interactive and Dynamic Website

The Foundation has enhanced the design, performance, security and functionality of its website to enhance the experience of its website visitors. Please visit <https://nicolefoundation.org/> to enjoy this amazing experience.

## EXCITING NEWS!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our NEW WEBSITE.



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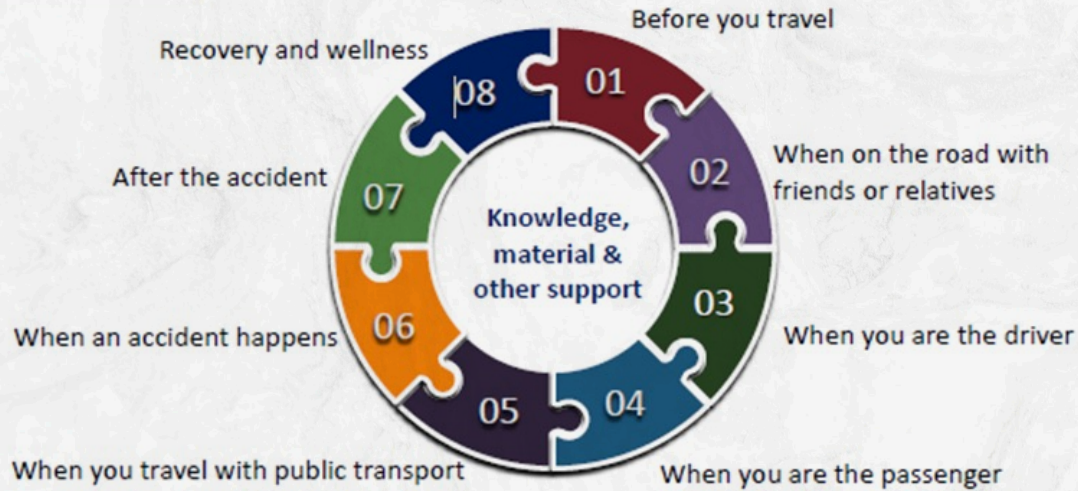


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## WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT



### THE WHEEL OF OFFERING:



### 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

### Our Partners



#### For more information:

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