



Technical officials learn vital planning tips well in time for WRC Safari Rally 2021



By **SAMSON ATEKA**

Stage commanders, their deputies, set-up crew and assistant clerks of course launched a crucial training workshop being run by Motorsport UK in the build-up to June's World Rally Championship Safari Rally.

The officials are confident the training

will go a long way in bolstering the general planning for the June 24-27 WRC Safari Rally.

The workshop, being held at the WRC Safari Rally Headquarters, is geared towards improving competency levels of officials assigned to a host of roles well in the fabled rallying event.

The training also seeks to "build an organisational facet of the highest calibre as well as fostering teamwork."

Kevin Omondi Omondi, in his new role as Deputy Stage Commander (previously a Radio Marshall), says he has learnt requisite skills on planning and communication.

"I have learnt quite a lot on how to co-ordinate a rally, and how to communicate with other officials in case of any eventuality.

"In my new role, I have also learnt how to co-ordinate safety as well as relate with Timing Marshalls. If you have done a few rounds of the KNRC as an official, then you will realise we could actually take our

events to the next level if we implemented the nitty gritty of the FIA set-up."

Young organizer Qahir Rahim, who assisted in the 2019 Candidate Rally, and now a Deputy Stage Commander for the Chui Stage, said: "I have learnt that anything you can plan in advance will make the process/time a lot easier."

The training continues today.

Dom Saunders: Kenyan organisers now better exposed, informed

As the WRC Safari Rally Kenya's dates draw closer, Motorsport UK instructor Dom Saunders believes Kenyan officials are now more aware of planning and are getting along very well with the nitty gritty of rally organisation.

"They are a lot more aware of what is going on and have had better communication and planning skills.

"What we need to do is to involve Stage Commanders a lot more in that planning process...

"Hopefully, with what they have seen and learnt today, they now only have to be involved in the planning facets of the sport and they will understand that better," he said on the opening day of a training workshop at Kasarani yesterday (February 27).

Saunders reckons that the

magnitude of planning in a World Rally Championship event is "immense" and requires early planning.

"The key difference between running a rally and a WRC is that WRC is not a rally. It's a television product... it's a television product that is sold.

"The WRC circus, when it arrives in town, it's a big, big animal and has lots of pressure and we have to make sure we involve stakeholders through and through.

"The key message for today was that we are gonna get on with planning, we are gonna build teams, we are gonna make sure that there is a smooth running between all teams operating," he said.

The workshop continues today (Sunday).





Racing fraternity mourns Safari legend HANNU MIKKOLA

By **SAMSON ATEKA**

Participants in the ongoing WRC Safari Rally workshop have paid tribute to rallying legend Hannu Mikkola who died on Friday.

Hannu is a two times Safari Rally winner, clinching the 20th edition in a Ford Escort RS 1600 and the 35th WRC Marlboro Safari Rally in 1987 in an Audi.

Hannu, who visited Kenya three years ago, died aged 78.

The first Audi to win the original WRC Safari Rally and Audi's final world championship rally car returned to Kenya in 2017 with the winning driver Hannu during the eighth edition of the Kenya Airways East African Safari Classic Rally.

Among those who condoled with the family of the fallen legend were Charles Hinga, a former Kenya F2 national contender, and official George Njoroge.

Both are attending the training event at Kasarani.

Kenya Motor Sports Federation sponsorship Liaison Sylvia King, on her part, said: "Very sad to hear this news. Condolences to his family.

"He was the first overseas driver to win the Safari Rally in 1972. Always a gentleman. The last time I met him was during the 2017 EA Classic Rally when he came around with the Audi. Rest in peace Hannu."





Intense training by Motorsport UK welcome, signals WRC Safari Rally's preparedness

BY ELIAS MAKORI

For the next week-and-a-half, WRC Safari Rally officials will undergo intense training by Motorsport UK on various aspects of rally organisation.

Besides equipping Kenyan officials with organisational acumen, the detailed training will go a long way in reassuring the world that Kenya is leaving nothing to chance in putting together a truly world-class rally in June.

The training started yesterday (February 27) for Stage Commanders, their deputies and Stage Safety Officers and will continue today with sessions for Safety Car Crew Members.

The training schedule is as follows:

February 27: (10:00 – 16:15): Stage Commanders, their Deputies, and Stage Safety Officers;

February 28: (10:00 – 16:15): Safety Car Crew Members (am alone, pm a combined group with the SCs);

March 1-3: (18:30 – 20:30): Train the Trainer (via Zoom from their own homes or the office);

March 6: (10:00 – 12:30): Radio Marshals;

March 6: (13:30 – 16:00): Radio Controllers;

March 7: (10:00 – 16:00): Timing Marshals and Stage Commanders;

Practical in the afternoon

March 7 (10:00 – 13:30): Rescue & Recovery, an intro (Dr Raj – face to face at KMSF offices)

Note: Between March 3 and April, KMSF trainers will each deliver at least one Rally Marshals Training event (either virtual or actual) using the FIA Rally Marshals module.

