Kateete returns to ignite women's motocross title race

By Gerald Kikulwe

The return of 16-year-old motocross sensation Shamilla Kateete has injected fresh intensity into this season's Mountain Dew National Motocross Championship in the women category, with more than 10 riders now bracing for a tougher battle as the teenage star targets the a second consecutive win this Sunday at E-Villas Racing Park in Kalisizo

Last year, Shamilla only competed in four of the eight championship rounds as she focused on completing her Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) exams at St. Michael High School. Despite the pressure of balancing school and the sport, she excelled academically, scoring five Bs and four Cs to secure result 1grade.

Managing the demands of school alongside the physical and mental rigours of motocross highlighted her discipline and maturity at a young age.

Even with limited appearances, Shamilla still secured the 125cc women's category, demonstrating remarkable consistency. Riding a KTM 125 (2023 model), she began the new season in dominant fashion by winning the women's class during the opening round of the Motocross Championship at Victoria Raceway Park.

Her journey has not been without adversity. In 2019, while chasing a season title, Shamilla suffered a serious crash that left her with severe facial injuries, the loss of several teeth and multiple stitches. The accident was so severe that many feared it had ended her racing career.

However, her recovery and eventual return to the track have become a powerful example of resilience, determination and passion for the sport.

She completed her comeback in 2023 by winning the 85cc women's title before going on to claim the 125cc championship last season, despite competing in only half of the scheduled rounds.

Reflecting on her journey, Shamilla said she remains grateful for the second chance she received.

PHOTO BY GERALD KIKULWE



Shamilla Kateete in action