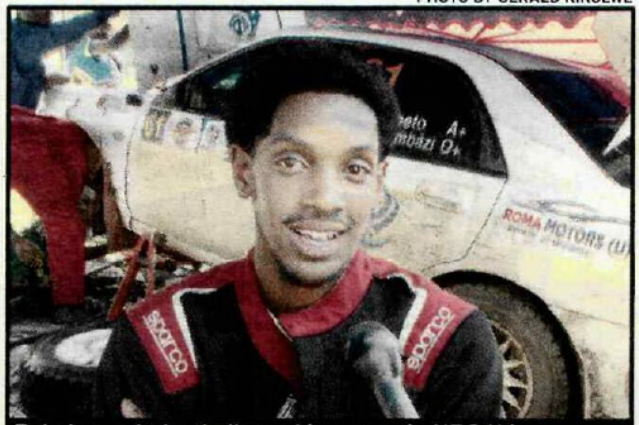
Bebeto raises stakes in National Rally Championship with Evo 9 upgrade

By Gerald Kikulwe

PHOTO BY GERALD KIKULWE



Bebeto ready to challenge big names in NRC this season

The Uganda National Rally Championship is shaping up for an exciting season after 20-year-old rally prospect Kevin Bebeto upgraded to a more powerful car which will shake up the sport's established competitors.

Bebeto has boosted his championship ambitions with the acquisition of a more competitive Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution 9, a machine widely respected for its stability and performance on rally stages. The car was imported from Kenya and carries a strong pedigree, having previously been driven by Kenyan rally driver Alastair Cavanagh before later being campaigned by Tanzanian competitor Dharam Pandya. With such a proven rally car now in his garage, expectations surrounding Bebeto's 2026 campaign have grown significantly.

Driving for the Simba Rally Team, Bebeto first entered competitive motorsport in 2023 behind the wheel of a Toyota RunX. From the outset, his fearless driving style and natural speed caught the attention of rally enthusiasts, many of whom quickly identified him as a future title contender with ambitions that extend beyond Uganda to the continental stage.

In 2025, he upgraded to a Subaru Impreza N10, a move that accelerated his development. Competing in the Clubman Rally Championship category, Bebeto produced consistent performances throughout the season to secure a commendable third-place finish in the standings.

Now armed with the more powerful Mitsubishi Evolution 9, the young driver enters the new season under heightened scrutiny. His rapid rise has already drawn comparisons with Kenyan star Karan Patel, a dominant figure in regional rallying and a former Pearl of Africa Uganda Rally champion who has enjoyed success driving the formidable Ford Fiesta R5.

However, Bebeto insists he is determined to carve his own identity in the sport. He believes upgrading to a stronger car is an important milestone in his career as he pursues greater success. A key component of his championship push will be his partnership with experienced navigator Lawrence Mwambazi, whose role in delivering precise pace notes will be crucial.

Motorsport heritage also runs deep in Bebeto's family. He is following in the footsteps of his uncle, former rally driver Kuku Ranjit, who competed against top names such as Charlie Lubega, Moses Lumala among others.