Ugandan crews flagged off ahead of Safari Rally

By Gerald Kikulwe

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Chebet (L) flags off Duncan 'Kikankane' Mubiru at Lugogo

Three Ugandan rally crews have vowed to deliver stand-out performances as they were officially flagged off ahead of the 2026 Safari Rally, the third round of the World Rally Championship (WRC), set for March 12–15 in Naivasha, Kenya.

Regarded as one of the toughest and most prestigious rallies globally, the Safari Rally challenges drivers not only on speed but also endurance, mechanical reliability, and tactical precision.

Leading Uganda's charge is the flamboyant and accomplished Duncan Mubiru, popularly known as Kikankane, who will be navigated by the experienced Joseph Kamya in a Subaru Impreza WRX STI. Joining him is Oscar Ntambi with co-driver Uthumaan Muhamad in a Mitsubishi Evo 10, while Timothy Gawaya, navigated by Francis Wamala, completes the trio in a Seat Ibiza. "We call upon all rally fans, both at home and in the diaspora, to support us. This is drivers on the planet. Our goal is to compete relentlessly and secure strong positions while carrying the Ugandan flag with pride," the crews stated.

Mubiru, Ntambi, and Gawaya will compete in the ARC2 category, the second tier of the African Rally Championship (ARC), a division that has grown in competitiveness and prestige. Uganda's representation is further bolstered by reigning ARC champion Yasin Nasser, paired with co-driver Ali Katumba in remains central to Uganda's Safari Rally ambitions.

The crews were flagged off at the National Council of Sports (NCS) headquarters in Kampala by Assistant General Secretary for Technical Affairs, Milton Chebet, and Hamid Gombe of the Federation of Motorsport Clubs of Uganda (FMU). Each crew received Shs10m to support logistics and preparations for the demanding rally.

Spanning 1,192.92 km with 350.02 km of competitive special stages, the Naivasha rally