

ON ONE OF THE WETTEST SAFARI'S EVER



ZASADA:

THE Mercedes 280E of Sobieslav Zasada gets a little help from friends while crossing a badly flooded section.



RUEDIN:

THE Colt Lancer of Rowland Ruedin is pushed through a flooded section near Kisumu.

PRESTON:

VIC PRESTON Jr. is surrounded by rally enthusiasts on arrival in Nairobi last night.



FLOODS AND MUD TAKE BIG TOLL ON CARS AND COURSE

WET OUTLOOK!

By NATION Reporter

THE Second leg of the Safari will be as muddy and flooded as the first.

"Even the first section from Nairobi to Athi River is suspect," Safari Chairman Bharat Bhardwaj said. "We are taking all precautions and sending recce cars to look at the route just ahead of the rally cars."

"We'll try to maintain as much of the route as we can and will take decisions to change it at the very last moment. The route will only be changed if it is impassable," he said.

Tremendous rain has been reported in the area around Crocodile Camp, and the Jaribuni Drift near the Coast is also reported to be very high.

The weather outlook for the Third Leg looked a little better last night. The area around Isiolo was reported to be drying out and the infamous Embu-Meru section still looked "very much on".

The route around Mt. Kenya and the Aberdares is expected to be the most difficult. "That's where the outcome of the event will be decided," Dr. Bhardwaj said.

Late yesterday afternoon, the route outwards from Kericho was completely flooded. The Mara River had risen seven feet and road near Governor's Camp was non-existent. Aircraft were being sent to rescue people stranded in this area.

"So the organisers decided to re-route the cars from the dreaded Lumbwa escarpment on the main Kisumu-Kericho road and back to Nairobi on tarmac.

Average speeds required were also reduced in the interests of safety, and repeated announcements were made on the radio warning the public that rally cars would be coming down the main road.

Lateness was extended to give as many cars as possible the chance to complete the first leg.

The slack times were used by most of the crews to service their weather beaten cars.

The Kisumu bunching control was extended by four hours yesterday afternoon, and despite the route cuts the leading cars arrived in Nairobi more than two hours behind the original schedule. Some of the tail-enders were not expected back until 4 a.m.

PICTURES BY CAMERAPIX

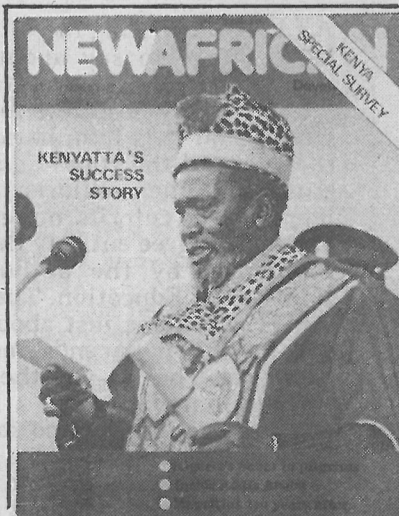
RUEDIN:

HANS Ruedin's Colt Lancer is towed out of the floodwaters on the stretch between Kisumu and Songor.



DAVINDER:

DAVINDER and his co-driver Ashok Bhalla take their Opel Kadet through a flooded section near North Kinangop.



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