

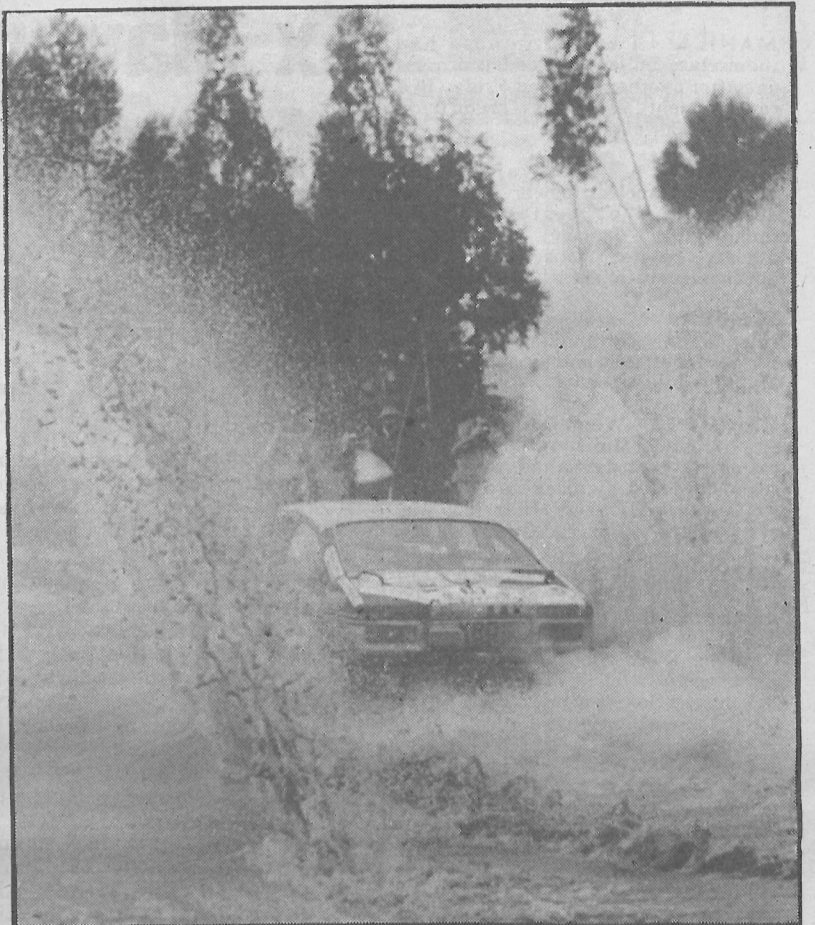
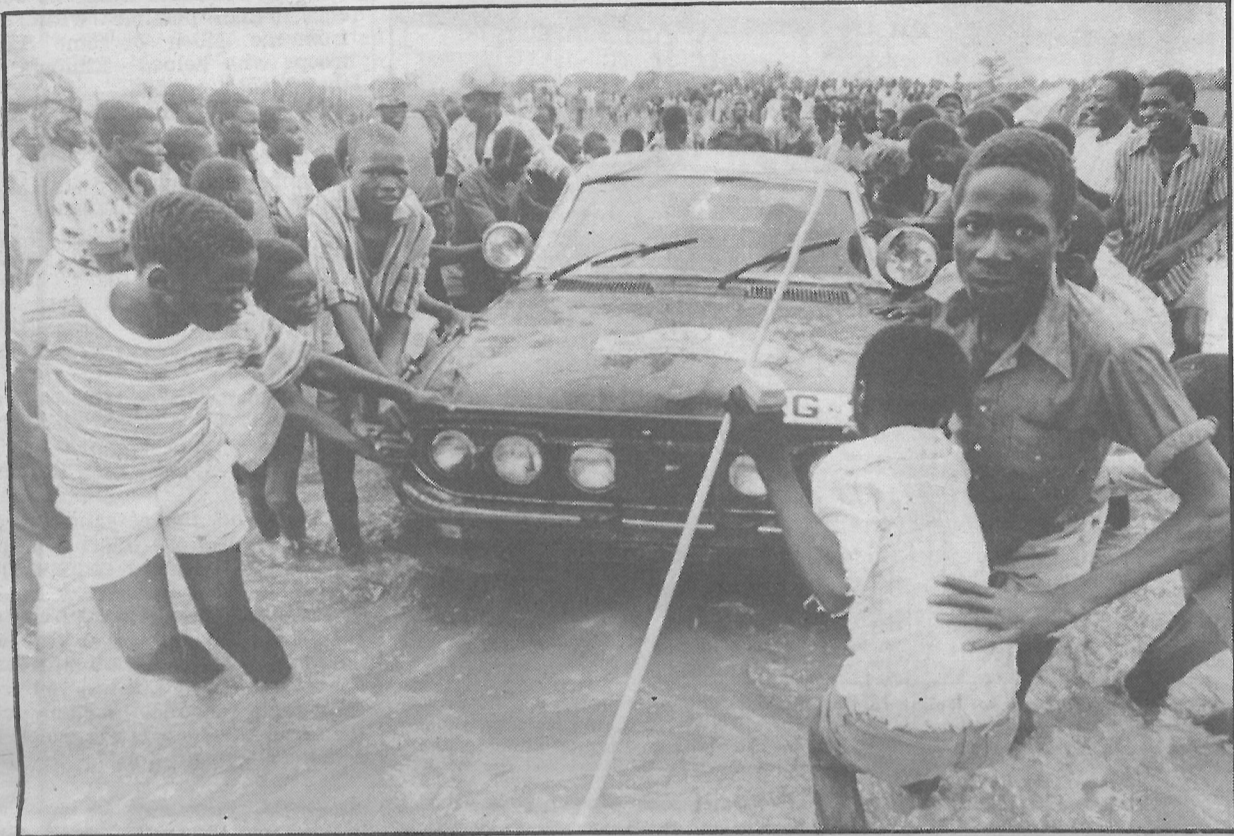
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No. 1238 March 26, 1978

Kenya 1/50 Tanzania 1/70

Locals in trouble



Overseas drivers lead second leg

By ALFRED ARAUJO

WITH veteran overseas drivers occupying the top four positions as the second leg of the Safari Rally got under way early yesterday (Saturday) morning, it seemed as if local crews would have to pull a few rabbits out of the hat if one of their number is to win it.

Sweden's Bjorn Waldegaard, world rally champion last year, nursed his battered and mud-splattered German Porsche 911SC car into the Kenya capital on Friday night having built up a commanding lead at the end of the first leg of the gruelling rally.

Waldegaard, driving with countryman Hans Thorszelius as navigator, completed the 1,830-km. (1,123-mile) first leg with a loss of 153 penalty points.

Waldegaard, who won last year's Safari Rally with Thorszelius, was drawn in fifth starting position this year and did much of the front-running since the five-day rally began on Thursday afternoon.

Overseas crews held the first four positions at the end of the first leg.

Sixty-eight cars, some of them piloted by the world's leading rallyists, started the rally. Offi-

AFRICAN CREWS STILL IN RUNNING

THE first African crew to check in at the Nairobi control on Friday night was car No. 41 driven by Mohamed Noor and Mohamed Din, followed by car No. 51, driven by Harry Thuku and Jamie Fernandez, who checked in at exactly 9 p.m.

Placed 28th on the road, Thuku said the entire route was rough but not very bad. He said their Datsun 160J had no mechanical problems and was doing very well. He said this year's Safari appeared to be the wettest as every part of the first leg apart from the Lake Baringo area had been wet and muddy.

Noor and Din said they were confident of finishing the route.

By DAVID KARIUKI and KUL BHUSHAN

The only mechanical hitch the two drivers had was a clutch problem which developed near Butere.

Zully Rhemtulla and Nizar Jivani in car No. 15, a Datsun 160J, said they were very disappointed with the decision to re-route the cars. "The officials ought to have thought of the change earlier to avoid the hurried alteration of the earlier route plan," Zully said.

Vic Preston Jr. drove with a broken shock absorber in his Porsche 911SC for more than 100 kilometres just before Eldoret. This cost him his second position

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TOP LEFT: It has turned out to be the Harambee Safari alright. Stone-throwing incidents have been limited and spectators have proved only too willing to pitch in and help. Here car No. 49, driven by S. S. Kalsi and M. S. Gohil, gets a push across a flooded section near Kisumu. ABOVE: Car No. 19, driven by Kenyan drivers Davinder Singh and Ashok Bhalla, sends a spray of water spurring in all directions as it "swims" through the first leg.

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