

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 4



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## Safari Rally Kenya: Private ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew wins WRC2 at toughest event of the season

- › Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (POL/POL) of ŠKODA Motorsport customer LOTOS Rally Team dominate WRC2 at sixth round of the FIA World Rally Championship
- › With the WRC2 Powerstage victory, Kajetanowicz also takes the category overall lead
- › Only four WRC2 crews survive extremely demanding stages in the Lake Naivasha area – three of them with a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2

**Naivasha (KEN), 26 June 2022 – Safari Rally Kenya, sixth round of the FIA World Rally Championship, lived up to its reputation. Of eight WRC2 crews at the start, only four made it to the finish. Victory went to Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Poland. With his first WRC2 win of the season, Kajetanowicz also took over the lead in the WRC2 overall standings.**

Roughly 360 kilometres of stages in the Lake Naivasha area, some 100 kilometres north of the country's capital Nairobi, tested men and machines to the extreme. Knee-deep powdery sand, locally known as fesh-fesh, made the drivers sometimes lose orientation mid-stage. Big rocks in the middle of the road constantly posed the danger of punctures. On top of that, heavy rains in the afternoon of the second leg on Saturday added aquaplaning and mud with ice-like traction to the challenge.

"I have never experienced such conditions in my career," Kajetan Kajetanowicz said already after the shakedown stage. Nevertheless, the Pole at the wheel of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo didn't set a foot wrong once the rally had started proper. Navigated by co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak, Kajetanowicz posted fastest WRC2 time on five of the first leg's seven stages. Even better, the LOTOS Rally Team crew won all of second leg's six stages. As most of the competitors fell foul to the challenging conditions and had to rely on the re-start rule, the WRC2 lead for Kajetanowicz/Szczepaniak grew to more than 20 minutes.

During the final leg, "Kajto" concentrated on staying out of trouble. But he didn't let the three bonus points for the category win on the Powerstage slip through his fingers. With another stage win, he increased his points haul to the maximum of 28. Because the top four of the WRC2 overall standings – before Safari Rally Kenya – were not present, Kajetanowicz jumped to the lead in the category's overall standings. "It's like a dream and I don't want to wake up. This is the hardest WRC round and it's amazing to win. Thanks to all of my team – they did really good work and it's fantastic," Kajetanowicz beamed after crossing the finish line of the final stage.

Of the four WRC2 crews at the finish of Safari Rally Kenya, three trusted the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2. Third and fourth position respectively went to locals Amanraaj Rai/Gurdeep Panesar and Aakif Virani/Bhatti Azhar.

Next on the FIA World Rally Championship calendar is one of the fastest events of the season – Rally Estonia (14-17 July 2022) on the flowing gravel stages in the Tartu area.

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Page 2 of 4



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## Result Safari Rally Kenya (WRC2)

1. **Kajetanowicz/ Szczepaniak (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 4:16:02.5 hrs**
2. Johnston/Kihurani (USA/USA), Citroën C3 Rally2, +19:08.2 min
3. **Rai/Panesar (KEN/KEN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +29:13.9 min**
4. **Virani/Azhar (KEN/KEN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:02:51.1 hrs**

## Number of the rally: 15

ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 drivers posted fastest WRC2 times on 15 of the rally's 19 stages. WRC2 winner Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL) took the laurels 14 times. One WRC2 stage win went to Gaurav Gill from India. He is no newcomer to the Czech brand – Gill won the Asian-Pacific Rally Championship with a ŠKODA FABIA in 2013, 2016 and 2017.

## Top-5 overall WRC2 Open/Drivers (after 6 of 13 rounds)

1. **Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 66 points**
2. Yohan Rossel (FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 63 points
3. **Nikolay Gryazin (ANA), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 52 points**
4. **Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 51 points**
5. **Chris Ingram (GBR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 44 points**

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## ŠKODA Motorsport at Safari Rally Kenya

Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak from Poland won WRC2 in the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of LOTOS Rally Team.

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Page 3 of 4



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## ŠKODA Motorsport at Safari Rally Kenya

In extremely rough conditions, Polish crew Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) scored their first WRC2 victory of the season.

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## Motorsport at Safari Rally Kenya

Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (POL/POL) drove LOTOS Rally Team's ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to 14 WRC2 stage wins.

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## Motorsport at Safari Rally Kenya

Indian Gaurav Gill (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2) also has the WRC rounds in Greece, Estonia and Japan on his schedule.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

## ŠKODA Motorsport

- › ŠKODA has been active in motorsport since 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the ŠKODA 130 RS.
- › In recent years, the ŠKODA FABIA celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide. From 2009 to 2014, the ŠKODA FABIA S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The ŠKODA FABIA S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The ŠKODA FABIA R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) continued the S2000's success story in 2015. In the following years, ŠKODA Motorsport factory drivers took multiple titles in the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro with the models ŠKODA FABIA R5 (Rally2) and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. Titles went to Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE), Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) and Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR). Supported by ŠKODA Motorsport, Toksport WRT became Team Champion of the WRC2 category in 2020.
- › ŠKODA Motorsport customer teams have also won titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC).
- › In 2021, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR, Toksport WRT) took the WRC2 Drivers' Championship and the FIA European Rally Championship overall at the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.
- › By the end of the 2021 season, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 (Rally2) and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo had secured over 1,500 victories and more than 3,700 podium positions in 65 countries.

## ŠKODA AUTO

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in India, Russia and North Africa.

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Page 4 of 4

- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ, ENYAQ iV and KUSHAQ.
- › delivered over 870,000 vehicles to customers around the world in 2021.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs around 43,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.

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