
Date: 12.03.2026 **Time:** 21:45 hrs
Subject: STEWARDS DECISION No. 2 **Document No:** 2.3

From: The Stewards
To: The Competitor RWANDA RALLY TEAM of car No. 51
Crew JEAN CLAUDE GAKWAYA / JEAN CLAUDE MUGABO

All Competitors / crew members

The Stewards, having received a report from the Clerk of the Course, summoned the above crew members as well as a competitor's representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

Facts On SS2 on Thursday 12th March 2026, car No. 51 was being driven in the opposite direction from approximately km 7.5 for almost 1 km.
For this reason, the Clerk of the Course deployed the red flag on SS2 at 19.09 hrs.

Offence Art. 19.2 and Art 34.1.4 of the 2026 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations in conjunction with Art. 12.2.1.h of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code.

Decision **Disqualification** of Competitor of Car No. 51

Reason A hearing was held on Thursday 12th March 2026 at 20.00 in the presence of the driver, the co-driver and the Team Representative Mr. Eric Gakwaya of car No. 51.

The Team Representative explained that when the crew approached box 40 of Road Book 1 page 59 at Km 7.18, due to lack of visibility caused by dust and darkness, they drove straight instead of turning left, took the wrong direction and found some barriers. They then got lost and re-joined SS2 at Km 7.50 driving in the opposite direction. They added that a marshal instructed them to take the wrong direction without providing the Stewards any evidence for their statement.

Art. 19.2 of the 2026 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations stipulates that all crews must follow the compulsory itinerary as indicated in the Road Book.

It has to be noted that only car No. 51 took the wrong direction on SS2.

Art. 34.1.4 of the 2026 FIA WRC Sporting Regulations clearly stipulates that *Crews must always drive in the direction of the special stage.*

The Clerk of the Course had to deploy the Red Flag stopping the running of SS2 for all remaining cars in order to avoid any possible incident.

Driving behaviour is one of the main principles to ensure that motorsport is run in a safe condition for all participants.

Driving in the opposite direction is an *"unsafe act thus resulting in an unsafe situation"* as stipulated in Art. 12.2.1.h of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code.

The Stewards therefore concluded that the crew of car No. 51 was in breach of the above regulations and that the penalty imposed is proportional to this serious infringement.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 5 of the 2026 FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.



Edoardo Delleani
The Stewards



David Domingo



Tuta Mionki

This decision was notified to the Competitor's officially nominated representative as below:

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	ERIC GAKWAYA	<i>Date:</i>	12.3.2026
<i>Position within the team:</i>	TEAM REPRESENTATIVE	<i>Time:</i>	21:50

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