

ed from the cameras during that session

# in coronation



Prince Charles looks on as President Jomo Kenyatta greets Princess Anne at Gatundu when they visited Kenya in 1971. PHOTO FILE

## Pilot in heroic chopper save of stuck driver in Galana Kulalu speaks

BY MARY WAMBUI

The Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's pilot caught in a viral clip rescuing a truck driver who had been trapped in flood waters along the Galana-Kulalu causeway on Wednesday evening has described his heroic act that saved the truck driver's life as "dangerous".

Speaking exclusively to *Saturday Nation* from the Trust's elephant nursery in Nairobi, Taru Carr-Hartley (24) said he had to balance between hovering closely over the truck and providing support to his younger brother Roan Carr-Hartley, who at some point was hanging below the helicopter and on top of the truck while helping the driver, James Rufus Kinyua, into the helicopter.

Roan had strapped himself to a harness that was attached to the chopper and his elder brother knew that any slight change in the distance between the helicopter and the lorry would cause a double tragedy.

"I had to concentrate to maintain the distance and height between the helicopter and the truck so as to give him time to help the gentleman into the chopper, then hop back in himself," he says.

Kinyua was driving his fuel truck from the Galana National Irrigation Board (NIB) where he had delivered fuel when, on his way back, he encountered floods due to the recent rains upstream.

"His lorry had been pushed sideways by the rising water and two of his wheels went off the concrete causeway, getting it stuck in the middle.

Someone called for help and a tractor came from NIB. But by the time it arrived to pull the truck from where it was wedged, the water continued to rise and had pushed the truck onto its side and into deeper waters," recalled Taru, adding that the water levels had risen so much that by the time the helicopter arrived, the cabin was half full of water.

"The situation was getting dangerous for the driver who was alone at the time, but I think there was a second man in the lorry. By the time it was getting stuck, he had managed to exit but the driver stayed in to

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Taru Carr-Hartley

help. Obviously, he did not expect it to rise too quickly," said Taru.

At around 4pm, he received a call to rescue a truck driver trapped in flood water and his brother Roan quickly hopped into the chopper to accompany him.

"We received a call from our field manager at Galana where SWT is in partnership with KWS to do conservation on the ranches. Thankfully, we were able rush and arrive there in about 45 minutes," he said.

The pilot says they found Kinyua looking extremely tired and scared, and that his phone was off.

"I was told he had been there since 10am, in extreme fear I am sure. He was lying on top of the lorry and I could see the windscreen was smashed and the whole cabin was filling up with water," he recalls. Kinyua then started moving closer to the chopper, making it easy for the two brothers to fetch him out of the scene.

Taru does not remember the exact words that Kinyua used when he finally pulled into the chopper since he had his headset on but he recalls hearing the words, "Wow! Thank you!"

Taru is a pilot who has been flying since he was aged 18 and today, he works as the aerial and field manager at the department whose headquarters are based at Kaluhki near Mito Andei.

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kept royal and the s the own- rcor- hude sort. orge to be Com- aster state ham n- ryan spend it on community service. Unlike the last coronation of 1953 to day's – dubbed Operation Golden Orb – will be less elaborate, with a shorter duration and fewer attendees, owing to what the palace has explained as austerity measures due to "King Charles's sensitivity to the cost-of-living crisis" as reported by Time magazine.



It is a moment of national celebration (and royalist propaganda), welcoming the new king to his station as the country moves away from mourning his long-reigning mother

Vox News



King Charles holds unique attributes such as being the first heir to the throne to earn a university degree. "The King studied archaeology and anthropology in his first year at the University of Cambridge, switching to history for the remainder of his degree," says the royal family.

He also became the first member of The Royal Family to successfully complete the parachute regiment's training course, before he was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment in 1977.

There's going to be a lot of heavily symbolic ritual going down over the course of the ceremony, some of it stretching back before the Norman conquest of England in 1066, and some of it brand new for the occasion.

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Pilot Taru Carr-Hartley covers up one of the helicopters belonging to Sheldrick Wildlife Trust at the organization's offices based at the Nairobi National Park on May 4, 2023. FRANCIS NDERITU | NATION