

ENERGYLANDIA RALLY TEAM

Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk Reach the Finish Line of Dakar Rally Stage 8 After a Heroic Fight with Differential Problems

- The Dakar Rally Stage 8 followed a loop around Wadi Ad Dawasir
- Competitors faced the longest special stage of the entire rally today
- Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk reached the finish despite differential problems



The eighth stage of this year's Dakar Rally took the competitors on a loop around Wadi Ad Dawasir. The stage consisted of 238 kilometers of liaison sections and as many as 483 kilometers of special stage, making it the longest test of the entire rally. Unfortunately, around the 200-kilometer mark, the differential in the car of Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk was damaged. The Energylandia Rally Team crew undertook a heroic attempt to repair their Hilux T1+ in the middle of the desert.



Using their own supplies, as well as items borrowed from other Energylandia Rally Team crews, after an incredible battle Eryk and Szymon managed to reach the finish of the longest stage of the rally. Although the time loss is significant, the most important thing is reaching the finish and retaining the chance to continue competing in the toughest rally in the world. As the popular saying goes, *"as long as you keep fighting, you are a winner"*. Goczał and Gospodarczyk showed tremendous determination and fighting spirit today. It is also worth noting that Marek Goczał with Maciej Marton, as well as Michał Goczał with Diego Ortega, completed the stage without major issues, meaning that all Energylandia Rally Team crews remain in the fight.

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- Around the 200-kilometer mark, the differential in our car was damaged. After a very long fight, using, among other things, radiator sealant, we managed to patch it up temporarily. Towards the end, we tried pouring in various lubricants – basically everything we had. Unfortunately, this resulted in a significant time loss for us. However, we are at the finish. This car will finish the Dakar. And I will finish it together with it - emphasized Eryk Goczał in an emotional statement at the finish of Stage 8.

- During a tire change, we noticed oil leaking from the differential. We still had more than 250 kilometers to go to the finish, so the situation was very complicated. We tried to fix it, but everything there was broken. Eryk is a great mechanic, and that is what saved us today. The most important thing is that we are at the finish. I think we now need to change our strategy. We still have something to prove here - noted Szymon Gospodarczyk, Eryk's co-driver.



- It was another fast, sandy stage with dunes. We improved the suspension, and today the driving felt much better. We stopped next to Eryk – we gave them some sealant so they could try to repair the damaged differential. We are at the finish, our pace was good today, so tomorrow we want to keep pushing - summarized Marek Goczał.

- We have a good stage behind us, without any major moments. After one of the neutralizations, we stopped next to Eryk. We gave them whatever we could so they could try to patch up the differential and reach the finish. It was a very fast stage. Almost the entire time we had the throttle flat on the floor – my leg even hurts a bit because of it. For us, it was an OK day - concluded Michał Goczał.

On Tuesday, the second marathon of this year's Dakar Rally will begin. Competitors will face a 410-kilometer special stage. At the finish participants will receive tents, sleeping bags, and food rations. All work on the vehicles will have to be carried out by the crews themselves.