

How much interest you'll pay on a loan for South Africa's favourite cars

BRITS POS – BRITS - You'll pay roughly 30% more than the original purchase price for a new car if you opt for a finance plan.

The average motorist in South Africa cannot afford to walk into a dealership and buy a brand-new car, instead, they are reliant on vehicle repayment plans that can take years to pay off.

According to data from Lightstone Auto, most car purchases in South Africa now involve a finance plan, and these plans are getting longer and longer.

Additionally, most consumers cannot afford to put down a deposit, which is a portion of the car's value paid up front to reduce the cost of the monthly repayments.

However, the true cost of a car loan is the interest

that motorists will need to pay over the course of their contract, which can easily add up to more than R100,000, depending on the car.

With this in mind, we looked at how much interest motorists will pay for South Africa's 10 most popular cars right now.

The table below shows the interest paid for an entry-level version of the 10 best-selling cars from February 2026.

The figures were calculated for a standard 5-year/60-month contract with no deposit, based on the current prime interest rate of 10.25%.

Vehicle	Starting price	Interest paid	Final cost
Toyota Hilux Double Cab	R531,400	R154,450.27	R685,850.27
Suzuki Swift	R227,900	R68,797.76	R296,697.76
Ford Ranger Double Cab	R621,000	R179,736.81	R800,736.81
VW Polo Vivo	R271,900	R81,215.26	R353,115.26
Isuzu D-Max Double Cab	R567,200	R164,553.59	R731,753.59
Chery Tiggo 4 Pro	R269,900	R80,650.83	R350,550.83
Hyundai Grand i10	R224,900	R67,951.12	R292,851.12
Toyota Starlet	R268,300	R80,199.28	R348,499.28
Toyota Vitz	R178,800	R54,940.97	R233,740.97
Suzuki Fronx	R299,900	R89,117.30	R389,017.30

In all cases, the final sum paid by the owner is roughly 30% more than the original value of the car.

This cost is exacerbated by the fact that the car will have depreciated during the time you've owned it, while the repayments are calculated on the value of the car when it was new.

Even on an affordable model like the Suzuki Swift,

the interest adds up to almost R70,000, while Ford Ranger buyers will pay R180,000.

Bear in mind, these calculations are for the base models, meaning the interest paid will be far greater on the higher-level trims.

South Africans are taking out even bigger car loans

While 5-year/60-month finance plans are considered

the industry standard, Lightstone Auto found that motorists in South Africa are becoming increasingly reliant on longer contracts.

It noted that applications for 6-year/72-month plans skyrocketed during the 2010s, at one point representing 73% of all finance deals in the country.

While this figure has gone down in recent years, this is only because applications for 8-year/96-month plans are starting to take off.

A longer finance plan means the cost of the car is spread out over a longer interval, meaning the monthly repayments are lower.

This makes them more appealing to cash-strapped households looking to minimise their monthly expenses, but it comes at a substantial long-term cost.

A longer plan also means the interest has more time to add up, resulting in an even larger final bill.

To use the Hilux example from earlier, a 96-month contract would result in R256,656.51 in interest, which is roughly 50% of the purchase price.

By the end of the term, you would have paid a total of R788,056.51 for a bakkie that is now eight years old, which is only worth a fraction of that sum on the second-hand market.

What car maintenance tips will save money on rising petrol and diesel prices in 2026?

BRITS POS – BRITS - South African motorists are bracing for a sharp jump in fuel prices from April. Early fuel price forecasts suggest petrol could rise by South African motorists are bracing for a steep fuel price hike in April, with 95-octane petrol expected to rise by around R4.74 per litre and diesel by more than R7.70 per litre, in what could be one of the sharpest increases in recent months which is still depending on how global oil prices and the rand perform.

With fuel prices remaining highly unpredictable – largely at the mercy of ongoing Middle East conflict and a weakening rand – motorists are increasingly looking for practical ways to save on petrol and diesel.

What car maintenance tips will save money on rising petrol and diesel prices in 2026?

- How does correct tyre pressure, regular servicing and wheel alignment save fuel every month?
- Should I upgrade to a more fuel-efficient car or bakkie while petrol and diesel prices keep climbing?
- Are hybrid or electric vehicles actually cheaper to run in South Africa?

Sherry Sibeko, Executive Head for Personal Lines at Miway Insurance Limited, says that basic vehicle maintenance is a good place to start. "Simple maintenance steps and informed vehicle decisions can have a noticeable impact on monthly fuel spending, especially during periods of rising prices."

How does correct tyre pressure, regular servicing and wheel alignment save fuel every month?

Basic vehicle maintenance is one of the simplest and most effective ways to improve fuel efficiency, says Sibeko. "Tyres that are underinflated create more rolling resistance, which means the engine has to work harder and burn more fuel."

Regular servicing also plays a critical role. "A well-maintained engine operates more efficiently. Replacing air filters, ensuring spark plugs are in good condition, and keeping fluids topped up can all help improve how efficiently a vehicle runs."

Wheel alignment is another often-overlooked factor, she says. "When wheels are not properly aligned, the vehicle essentially works against itself as it moves forward. This increases drag and causes the engine to use more fuel than necessary."

Should I upgrade to a more fuel-efficient car or bakkie while petrol and diesel prices keep climbing?

For some motorists, Sibeko says that rising fuel prices may also prompt a longer-term decision about the type of vehicle they drive. "Fuel-efficient vehicles can make a significant difference to monthly transport costs, particularly for motorists who travel long distances every day."

However, she cautions that upgrading to a new vehicle should be carefully considered. "Consumers should look at the full financial picture. While a more efficient vehicle may reduce fuel costs, factors such as financing, insurance and maintenance should also be taken into account."

Drivers who rely on larger vehicles, such as bakkies, may still be able to improve efficiency by choosing newer models designed with improved fuel consumption. "Modern engines and improved vehicle technology often deliver better fuel economy than older models," Sibeko explains.

Are hybrid or electric vehicles actually cheaper to run in South Africa?

As fuel prices climb, Sibeko notes that increasingly more South Africans are beginning to explore hybrid and electric vehicles (EVs) as alternatives to traditional petrol or diesel cars.

"Hybrid vehicles can offer improved fuel efficiency because they combine a traditional engine with an electric motor. This means less fuel is used, particularly during stop-start driving in urban environments," she explains. "EVs, on the other hand, can eliminate petrol or diesel costs entirely, although buyers should still consider other factors such as electricity prices, charging infrastructure and upfront vehicle costs."

Ultimately, Sibeko says the most effective strategy for managing rising fuel prices combines smarter vehicle choices with better driving and maintenance habits. "Whether it's maintaining your current vehicle properly or adopting everyday fuel-saving driving habits, proactive decisions can help motorists stay ahead of rising fuel costs," she concludes.



FIRST HOME FINANCE

What is First Home Finance?
It is a housing subsidy to fund your first home

Who qualifies?

- A South African over 18 years of age, earning between R3 501 and R22 000 pm
- You should not have benefited from any government housing subsidy programme
- You should have approval in principle from an accredited financial institution

What documents are needed when applying for First Home Finance?

- A valid South African Identity Document
- Proof of monthly income, three months salary advice
- Home loan approval
- Marriage certificate

For more information on First Home Finance, call 018 388 5498






WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 4 OF THE NATIONAL WATER ACT, 1998 (ACT 36 OF 1998) FOR MLM MINERALS AFRICA (PTY) LTD ON PORTION 83 OF FARM BUFFELSFONTEIN QJ SITUATED IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE SOUTH AFRICA.

Province Notice is hereby given in terms of section 41(4) of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA) read with National Environmental Management Act, (Act no.107 of 1998) as amended (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014 (published in Government Notice R. 982, 4 December 2014), for MLM Minerals Africa (Pty) Ltd to carry out activities that require Water Use Licence Application process:

WATER USE LICENCE APPLICATION PROCESS

The proposed Water Use Licence (WUL) application triggers the following water uses defined in Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA):

- Section 21 (a): Taking water from a resource
- Section 21 (g): Disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a wastewater resource.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMENT

You are requested to register as an Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP) and are invited to participate in this WULA process by providing comments and raising any issues of concern that you may have, between 26th March 2026 to 26th May 2026. The public is also invited to complete the response form and comments form which can be requested during the public participation process. The comments and response form will be available for 60 calendar day's period starting from 26th March 2026 ending on the 26th May 2026. The background information reports will be available as soft copy upon request from Environengineering (Pty) Ltd, using the EAP's (Tendani Mphaga) contact details below:

Email: tendanimphaga@gmail.com Cell: 083 733 0747