



♥♥♥ WEDDING BELLS ♥♥♥ AT BROADWAY TOYOTA

Cupid's arrow has struck right at the heart of Broadway Toyota

- US tightens VISA rules for Batswana
- **DAKAR RALLY 2026:** TGRSA Deliver Stage Success

DAKAR RALLY 2026: TOYOTA GAZOO RACING SA DELIVER STAGE SUCCESS



Dakar Rally 2026 concluded on Saturday, 17 January, in Yanbu after 13 demanding stages.

TOYOTA GAZOO RACING SA claimed a stage victory and multiple top-ten stage results. Saood Variawa finished as the top-placed South African driver in the event.

The 2026 Dakar Rally drew to a close on Saturday in the coastal town of Yanbu, bringing an end to more than 7,000 kilometres of competition across Saudi Arabia. For TOYOTA GAZOO RACING SA, this year's event proved to be one of the most demanding in recent memory, with crews contending with relentless rocky terrain, deep dune systems, complex navigation and two gruelling Marathon stages.

All three TGRSA GR Hilux crews reached the finish, underlining both the endurance of the cars and the determination of the team, while consistently demonstrating competitive pace throughout the two-week rally.

Saood Variawa and Francois Cazalet led the team's overall performance, finishing 10th overall and making Variawa the top-placed South African driver at Dakar 2026. Their campaign was highlighted by a hard-fought Stage 8 victory and frequent top-ten stage results. Were it not for a combination of punctures, a damaged driveshaft and time lost in navigation-heavy sections, the pairing showed pace capable of challenging well inside the overall top five.

Reflecting on the rally, Variawa said that while it had been "a very long and tough race", he was encouraged by the progress made: "It's my third Dakar and my third finish. We had the

pace to be in the top five all the time, we won a stage and that brought confidence back into the team. Some things were out of my control and cost us a lot of time, but I've grown a lot and the results are starting to show." Cazalet added that securing a top-ten finish was a strong outcome: "Dakar is always tricky and different from what you expect, but we pushed until the end and did it clean. It's close to our objective before the start and we're happy with that."

Joao Ferreira and Filipe Palmeiro endured one of the toughest Dakar campaigns of their careers, with repeated punctures and an impact with a rock during the second Marathon stage causing extensive damage to the front-right corner of the car and resulting in significant time loss. If not for those incidents, the crew's raw speed, reflected in several strong stage performances including a seventh place on the final day, pointed to a far stronger overall result.

Ferreira said that while the final classification was disappointing, the experience remained valuable: "It's not the result the team wanted or deserved for all the work we've been doing, but Dakar is tough and we learn a lot. We still have a full W2RC season ahead, many opportunities to fight

for wins and stages, and Dakar 2027 is already around the corner." Palmeiro echoed that sentiment, adding: "We fought and tried to make the best result possible. We finished, and that's Dakar. Next time we come back stronger and ready to fight for the victory."

Guy Botterill and Oriol Mena delivered some of the most consistent pace within the TGRSA line-up, regularly running inside the top ten and showing strong speed in dunes and mixed terrain. Their rally, however, was repeatedly interrupted by punctures, navigation challenges and late-stage impacts, including damage sustained on Stage 12 while running inside the top six. If not for those setbacks, the pairing's pace suggested a far higher overall classification.

Botterill described the event as "a roller coaster", explaining: "We were in the top ten almost every single stage and then got caught out by a few mishaps. That's Dakar. It's a long race and things do go wrong. But the pace is there, the car was strong and there's a lot to build on." Mena added that simply reaching the finish remained significant: "It wasn't the result we expected, but finishing Dakar is important. This makes us stronger for the next edition." (continued on page 2)

US tightens VISA rules for Botswana travellers



The United States has tightened its visa rules, pulling Botswana into a new regime that could see Botswana asked to put down as much as \$15,000 before their U.S VISA applications are even considered.

The policy, which came into effect on January 1, was published on the official travel.state.gov website. Under the new requirement, Botswana applicants may be instructed to post a refundable bond ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000, a move US authorities say is meant to deter visa overstays and enforce immigration compliance.

“...Botswana applicants may be instructed to post a refundable bond ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000...”

While the State Department insists the bond is returned if a visa is refused or if travellers stick to the terms of their stay, it has stressed that payment does not guarantee approval. Critics argue the measure alone places US travel firmly out of reach for many ordinary citizens.

In several African countries affected, the maximum bond exceeds average annual incomes, effectively shutting the door on students, tourists, entrepreneurs and families with genuine travel plans.

The Trump administration has also tightened the screws elsewhere, introducing mandatory in-person interviews, deeper scrutiny of social media activity and detailed disclosures of travel and residence histories. Together, these measures have made applying for a US visa more costly and complex.

US officials defend the policy as a necessary security step, noting that exemptions and waivers remain for certain categories, including diplomats, some visa holders and athletes attending major international events.

(from page 1) Team Principal Shameer Variawa praised the collective effort behind the scenes and the robustness of the GR Hilux across the event, noting that the cars had largely run trouble-free despite the harsh conditions. “The pace has been good and we didn’t have many mechanical problems, which shows the work the team put in,” he said. “We had punctures at critical moments and that affected results, but everyone gave it their all. We take what we’ve learned and come back stronger next year.”

Vice-President of Marketing at Toyota South Africa Motors, Glenn Crompton, closed out Dakar 2026 by highlighting the scale of the challenge and the achievement of the team. “The results don’t necessarily reflect the performance of the team,” said Crompton. “Just finishing a Dakar is an incredible achievement. The team delivered on the challenge we set them. Continuous improvement and respect for people are critical for us as a brand, and that’s exactly what this team showed. We’re really proud of them.”

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SWITCH ON
YOUR HEADLIGHTS

Wedding bells at Broadway Toyota



In love: Lucky Setlhoka

Cupid's arrow has struck right at the heart of Broadway Toyota, where romance is blooming and wedding bells are ringing louder than ever. The entire office is ablaze with excitement as one of their own, Lucky Setlhoka, prepares to marry the love of his life, Neo Sekopelo, in what promises to be the most enchanting celebration of the year.

The preparations are nothing short of magical, it's absolute mayhem - but the most gorgeous kind! This isn't just a wedding, darlings - it's a full-blown love affair with destiny, and we are utterly here for it! The hunt for show-stopping outfits worthy of this power couple has become an obsession - because when Lucky and Neo say "I do," everyone wants to look absolutely spectacular.

Dance rehearsals have reached fever pitch, with bridesmaids and groomsmen mastering moves that would make even the most seasoned wedding guests weep with joy. Meanwhile, aunts and uncles are practically wearing out the roads between their homes,

popping in for endless cups of tea and excited planning sessions.

Lucky and Neo haven't just planned a wedding - they've orchestrated a three-day festival of love that will go down in history! Festivities kick off on February 26 at Leero Ward in Selokolela with the traditional patlo and magadi ceremonies at the bride's place. The main wedding celebration follows on February 28 at the same ward where Lucky and Neo will exchange vows that will make even the stoniest hearts melt., before culminating in the traditional kgoroso, where Neo will be formally welcomed into Lucky's family to begin their happily ever after in Kanye on March 1.

Routes have been mapped, carpools coordinated, and backup plans drawn up because missing this would be unthinkable! Now, all that's left is to set the stage where magic will happen, where two hearts will beat as one, and where love will prove, once again, that it truly conquers all.



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

DRIVING LICENCE
TESELETSO YA GO KGWE
CARTA DE CONDUÇÃO

Republic of Botswana
Department of Road Transport Services
Licence No. S1248676
Reg. No. B XXX AAA

Chassis No:
Engine No:
Make: MERCEDES-BENZ
Model: GLA200
Colour: WHITE
Tare: 1445
G.V.M:
Valid until end of
FEB 2026

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BROADWAY TOYOTA TURNS UP THE VOLUME ON CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

What's your favourite song? At Broadway Toyota Mahalapye, that question is now part of the welcome.

In a fresh move aimed at making every visit more personal, the dealership has installed a brand-new audio system across its offices, including the showroom. Customers collecting their vehicles, buying parts or bringing their cars in for service can now enjoy music tailored to their tastes — and even hear their favourite track playing during their visit. The initiative goes beyond background music.



“What's your favourite song?”


The system features a live playlist packed with trending hits, top local favourites and the most talked-about songs of the day, creating a lively and relaxed atmosphere while customers wait or browse. Management says the idea is simple: to turn an ordinary dealership visit into a warm, enjoyable experience where customers feel seen, heard and appreciated. So next time you walk into Broadway Toyota Mahalapye, don't be surprised if the soundtrack feels just right — it might just be your song playing.

SHELL ULTRA CITY MAHALAPYE



RESTROOMS

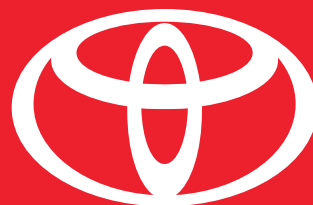


 **Along A1 Road, Mahalapye**



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