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Media Release

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Kia Tasman takes top honours in TopGear South Africa Bakkie Wars

- **Nine rivals.**
- **One winner.**
- **Built for rough. Tuned for smooth.**

The Kia Tasman has emerged as an overall winner of the latest Bakkie Wars, an annual test organised by TopGear South Africa, earning recognition for its well-rounded capabilities, performance and versatility.

Now in its third year, Bakkie Wars took place along the rugged Wild Coast in the Eastern Cape, where a series of demanding challenges put the capabilities of participating bakkies to the test. Following extensive driving across a variety of conditions and terrains, the Kia Tasman was named the overall winner, with nine other bakkie brands competing.

Launched in South Africa in April 2026, the Kia Tasman represents an important addition to Kia's local line-up, bringing together performance, practicality, comfort and off-road capability in a purpose-built one-ton bakkie.

Power comes from a 2.2-litre turbodiesel engine delivering 154kW and 440Nm of torque, paired with an eight-speed automatic transmission. With a payload capacity of 1008 kg and a braked towing capacity of 3 500kg, the Tasman is equipped to meet the demands of both work and leisure.

Its off-road credentials are further enhanced by the specially developed X-Trek mode, designed to provide stable and consistent progress during low-speed driving over challenging terrain. This feature gives drivers greater confidence when navigating demanding off-road conditions.

“The Kia Tasman boasts premium fit and finish that can box with upmarket SUVs, proper off-road ability, and a Bakkie Wars win on its first outing. Well done Kia for getting it right first time.” – Deon van der Walt, Managing Editor, TopGear Magazine South Africa.

Paul Turnbull, CEO of Kia South Africa, welcomed the recognition:

“Winning TopGear South Africa’s Bakkie Wars is a proud moment for Kia and an encouraging endorsement of what we set out to achieve with the Tasman. We wanted to introduce a bakkie that delivers on practical demands of South African customers while offering the refinement, capability and confidence expected of a modern SUV. This recognition is particularly meaningful because the Tasman has been tested in real-world conditions, and we are delighted that its all-round abilities have been recognised.”

The Bakkie Wars result marks a positive milestone for the Kia Tasman in the South African market and reinforces Kia’s commitment to delivering vehicles that are suited to the diverse needs and lifestyles of local customers.

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About Kia South Africa – www.kia.co.za
Kia South Africa was founded in April 1998 and is incorporated under Motus Corporation as the official importer and distributor of Kia vehicles in southern Africa. Kia South Africa has a dealership footprint spanning 80 dealerships throughout southern Africa and offers a full range of passenger vehicles and light commercial vehicles, all with an industry-leading Unlimited Kilometre/5-year warranty.

About Kia Corporation – www.kia.com
Kia is a global mobility brand with a vision to create sustainable mobility solutions for consumers, communities, and societies around the world. Founded in 1944, Kia has been providing mobility solutions for more than 75 years. With 52,000 employees worldwide, a presence in more than 190 markets, and manufacturing facilities in six countries, the company today sells around three million vehicles a year. Kia is spearheading the popularization of electrified and battery electric vehicles and developing a growing range of mobility services, encouraging millions of people around the world to explore the best ways of getting around. The company's brand slogan – ‘Movement that inspires’ – reflects Kia’s commitment to inspire consumers through its products and services.

About Motus – www.motus.co.za
Motus is South Africa’s leading automotive group, employing over 16 500 people. We are a diversified (non-manufacturing) business in the automotive sector with unrivalled scale and scope in South Africa, a selected international presence primarily in the United Kingdom and Australia, as well as a limited presence in Southeast Asia and Southern and East Africa. Motus traces its roots back to 1948, when its founding company Imperial Holdings Limited started as a single motor dealership in downtown Johannesburg. Motus was listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in November 2018, following its unbundling from Imperial Holdings Limited.