

2022 South African Car of the Year finalists announced

The top 25 finalists for the 2022 South African Car of the Year (Coty) competition has been announced. Coty is staged by the South African Guild of Mobility Journalists (SAGMJ) and has run continuously since 1986.



Honda FIT | Source: [Quickpic](#)

“This year’s Coty finalists show us the tremendous speed of research and development in the automotive industry. The finalists represent the best of the best in South Africa, and we are eager to see who the winners of this year’s competition will be,” says Carl Wepener, chairman of the SAGMJ.

Besides the overall winner’s crown, finalists can also win one of ten categories: Budget, Compact, Compact Family, Midsize, Premium, Luxury, Performance, New Energy, Adventure SUV and 4X4 Double Cab. The first category, Budget, has no contenders this year.

The most competitive categories in this year’s competition are the Midsize and Performance categories, with five finalists each. The Midsize category comprises the Audi A3, Hyundai’s Palisade, Santa Fe and Staria, and the Mercedes Benz C-Class. BMW’s 128ti and M3, Porsche 911 Carrera GTS, Toyota GR Yaris and Volkswagen Golf GTI make up the finalists in the Performance category.

Strong contenders in the Compact and Compact Family categories represent imported brands, with Toyota the only OEM that manufactures vehicles locally.

This year, the New Energy category represents a wider range of vehicles, which indicates the increased focus by OEMs in this segment of the market.

The Adventure SUV and 4x4 Double Cab categories are just as competitive this year as the 2021 Coty competition, where a newcomer in the class is competing against an established, locally manufactured rival.

With six finalists in five different categories, Toyota has the most finalists in this year's competition. Hyundai is in second place, with five finalists in three different categories.

This year's semi-finalists group was very competitive, with some contenders just missing the Finalist list. The Honda Fit, Land Rover Defender V8 and Haval Jolion missed the cut-off mark by only one point.

The finalists:

VEHICLE	CATEGORY
Kia Sonet	Compact
Hyundai i20	Compact
Peugeot 208	Compact
Toyota Urban Cruiser	Compact
Chery Tiggo 4 Pro	Compact Family
Toyota Corolla Cross	Compact Family
Hyundai Kona	Compact Family
Hyundai Staria	Midsized
Hyundai Santa Fe	Midsized
Mercedes-Benz C-Class	Midsized
Audi A3	Midsized
Hyundai Palisade	Midsized
Mercedes-AMG GLE 53	Luxury
Toyota GR Yaris	Performance
BMW M3 Competition	Performance
Volkswagen Golf GTI	Performance
BMW 128ti	Performance
Porsche 911 Carrera GTS	Performance
Toyota Corolla Cross Hybrid	New Energy
Lexus IS	New Energy
Honda Fit Hybrid	New Energy
Toyota Land Cruiser 300	Adventure SUV
Isuzu MU-X	Adventure SUV
Peugeot Landtrek	4x4 Double Cab
Nissan Navara	4x4 Double Cab

"The Car of the Year committee is extremely pleased with the variety of vehicles that made the Finalist round of this year's competition. Our jury panel of experts has a tough task ahead of them," says Graham Eagle, chairman of the 2022 Coty committee.

The final round of scoring will commence shortly and continue until early April. This round also includes data from Lightstone, which is used for automated scoring based on segment sales volumes and spec-adjusted competitor pricing.

“The 2022 Coty committee wishes all contenders good luck. The Category Winners and Overall SA Car of the Year Winner will be announced in May,” concludes Eagle.

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