MEDIA INFORMATION

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When every kilometre counts, Suzuki puts fuel economy to the test

South African motorists are facing higher fuel prices, with 95-octane petrol now costing R30.25 a litre at inland service stations. For motorists already navigating rising household costs, fuel economy is becoming an increasingly important consideration.

While fuel prices are beyond motorists' control, choosing a vehicle that makes every litre count can make a difference to everyday motoring costs. Suzuki's range is designed to deliver efficient and economical motoring, helping drivers get more kilometres from every tank.

This was put to the test during the recent 2026 Suzuki Fuel Economy Challenge, held on the streets of Pretoria from 29 to 30 September. Twenty media participants drove five Suzuki models – two examples each of the Fronx, Across, Swift, Dzire and Baleno – over a predetermined 120km route, with the objective of recording the lowest possible fuel consumption.

To ensure consistency, all the vehicles were refuelled at the same pump, with the nozzle inserted to the same depth and each vehicle refuelled until the first automatic shut-off click. Fuel consumption was then calculated at the end of the route.

The participants – all non-professional drivers – were briefed on economical driving techniques before setting out, but the challenge was conducted in real-world South African driving conditions that included rain, reduced visibility, power outages and increased traffic congestion.

Despite these conditions, several Suzuki models achieved strong fuel consumption figures, with the **Fronx** manual producing the standout result. Driven by Ryno Fourie (AutoTrader) and Julian Steyn (CAR Magazine), it recorded consumption of **5.14L/100km**, compared with Suzuki's claimed figure of 5.5L/100km.

Based on its 37-litre fuel tank, this consumption figure equates to a theoretical range of approximately **720km**. Based on the current 95-octane petrol price of R30.25/litre, that would equate to a theoretical fuel cost of approximately **R1.55/km**.

A **Baleno** manual, driven by Avon Middleton (Top Gear South Africa) and Rati Mofokeng (Cars.co.za), also came close to its claimed figure, recording **5.54L/100km** against Suzuki's official figure of 5.4L/100km – a difference of just 0.14L/100km.

Using the same calculation, its 37-litre tank would provide a theoretical range of approximately **668km** at the challenge consumption, with a fuel cost of around **R1.68/km** at the current 95-octane petrol price.

Both the Fronx and Baleno are powered by Suzuki's 1.5-litre four-cylinder K15B petrol engine, which produces 77kW at 6,000rpm and 138Nm at 4,400rpm.

The best-performing **Swift** was a manual derivative driven by content creators Gift Makoti and Siya Ndamase, which recorded **5.03L/100km** against Suzuki's claimed figure of 4.4L/100km.

At this consumption, the Swift's 37-litre tank would theoretically provide a range of approximately **736km**, with fuel costing around **R1.52/km** at the current petrol price.

Unlike the Fronx and Baleno, the Swift is powered by Suzuki's Z12E 1.2-litre three-cylinder petrol engine, which produces 60kW at 5,700rpm and 112Nm at 4,300rpm.

“When fuel prices rise, every kilometre becomes more important to motorists. For many South Africans, mobility is part of everyday life – getting to work, visiting family, taking the kids to school or simply getting on with the day,” says Brendon Carpenter, Brand Marketing Manager of Suzuki Auto South Africa.

“Suzuki has always placed a strong emphasis on helping drivers get further on every tank of fuel, and this year’s Fuel Economy Challenge demonstrated what that can mean on South African roads. Despite the route challenges, several Suzuki vehicles came close to their official claimed consumption figures, which is encouraging to see. While consumption will always vary depending on driving style, traffic and weather, the challenge showed the potential of our vehicles to deliver more kilometres from every litre, which can make a meaningful difference to motorists facing higher fuel costs.”

For reference, the table below summarises the results achieved by all participating teams, including their recorded fuel consumption and how it compares with Suzuki’s claimed figures.

Rank	Driver / Team	Vehicle	Variance from Claimed (L/100 km)	Achieved Consumption (L/100 km)	Claimed Consumption (L/100 km)
1	Ryno Fourie / Julian Steyn	Fronx MT	-0.36 L/100 km	5.14 L/100 km	5.50 L/100 km
2	Avon Middleton / Rati Mofokeng	Baleno MT	0.14 L/100 km	5.54 L/100 km	5.40 L/100 km
3	Gift Makoti / Siya Ndamase	Swift MT	0.63 L/100 km	5.03 L/100 km	4.40 L/100 km
4	Fanele Bengu / Otsile Kadiege	Across MT	0.85 L/100 km	6.15 L/100 km	5.30 L/100 km
5	Nonto Mondlane / Camryn Meyer	Fronx Auto	1.11 L/100 km	6.81 L/100 km	5.70 L/100 km
6	Xolile Hopa / Kendra Hyman	Swift CVT	1.23 L/100 km	5.83 L/100 km	4.60 L/100 km
7	Devon Carlinsky / Sher Muhammad Khan	Dzire MT	1.25 L/100 km	5.55 L/100 km	4.30 L/100 km
8	Ziphorah Masethe / Girlie Lukhele	Baleno MT	1.27 L/100 km	6.67 L/100 km	5.40 L/100 km
9	Barrie Ferreira / Mandisa Kheswa	Across MT	1.37 L/100 km	6.67 L/100 km	5.30 L/100 km
10	Jessica Ross / Tarryn van Louw	Dzire CVT	1.60 L/100 km	6.10 L/100 km	4.50 L/100 km

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Suzuki is South Africa's second most popular car brand. It has won the coveted Brand of the Year Award twice, as awarded at the Cars.co.za Consumer Awards, powered by absa, and is the most awarded brand in the Budget Car of the Year category in the same competition. The group is also one of two brands with the most finalists in the history of this competition. Suzuki has had multiple finalists in the South African Car of the Year competition, sponsored by Old Mutual Insurance. In support of its growing client base, this Japanese compact vehicle specialist is continuing to open new dealerships, now standing at 123, including dealerships in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Eswatini and dealers in rural areas across Southern Africa.

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