

22, September, 2021  
Toyota Motor Corporation  
GAZOO Racing Company

**TOYOTA GAZOO RACING ANNOUNCES FOUR-CAR TEAM AND  
ALL-NEW TOYOTA GR DKR HILUX T1+ FOR DAKAR 2022**

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing will be entering a four-crew team in the upcoming Dakar Rally, which is set to take place in Saudi Arabia from January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. As in 2021, the works team will be spear-headed by Nasser Al-Attiyah and navigator Mathieu Baumel. Giniel de Villiers will be partnered with navigator Dennis Murphy; Henk Lategan and Brett Cummings will return for their second Dakar; and Shameer Variawa will now be partnered with navigator Danie Stassen. The team will also be fielding an all-new Toyota GR DKR Hilux T1+, which conforms to the updated regulations for the T1 category. The prototype car, in temporary raw carbon fibre finish, is currently undergoing testing in preparation for an official reveal later in 2021.



Building on the experience from Dakar 2021, the team will continue to field a mix of experienced specialists, such as Nasser and Giniel, while cementing Henk as an up-and-coming force in the sport. Shameer will be aiming to improve on his 21<sup>st</sup> position at the previous race.

Since finishing second at the 2021 edition of the race, 2019 winners Nasser (Qatar) and Mathieu (France) have powered to victory in the Andalucia Rally; as well as the Baja Spain Aragon. The pair, who won the FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Rallies three consecutive times, will be aiming to add a fourth Dakar victory to their resume in 2022. Giniel and Dennis, both from South Africa, have competed successfully in the South African Cross-Country Series (SACCS), which also serves as a testbed for the continued development of the Toyota Dakar Hilux. They were in the lead of the title chase after three of the seven rounds that make up the series.

With a crash on Stage 5 of Dakar 2021 forcing South Africans Henk and Brett to retire after posting highly competitive times on Stages 3 and 4, they will be keen to show their pace, and mix it up with the more experienced crews ahead of them. Henk's Dakar debut drew global attention, and the young driver from Johannesburg, who has won the SACCS crown multiple times, will be looking to build significantly on that experience.

Finally, Shameer and Danie, also from South Africa, will complete the four-car team. Shameer, who has won multiple championships in South Africa, finished his first Dakar in 2021, but will now have Danie doing navigational duties. This will be Danie's first Dakar, but he campaigns in the SACCS together with Shameer, so the two should find it easy to gel in the car.



Following TOYOTA GAZOO Racing's philosophy of "making ever-better cars", the team has continued to refine the Hilux and the latest iteration will spearhead the team's Dakar Rally campaign. For 2022, the team is developing a new version of the Toyota Dakar Hilux, based on the latest rules. The new Toyota GR DKR Hilux T1+ will share components with the race-proven Hilux that was first introduced in 2018, and won the race in 2019, but will feature a host of improvements including bigger running gear – tyres of 37 inches, up from 32 inches; together with a tread increase from 245mm to 320mm. The new car also has more suspension travel with the previous limit of 280mm now increased to 350mm.

Under the hood, the car is now equipped with a 3.5 litre twin-turbo powered petrol V6 engine, sourced from the all-new Toyota Land Cruiser 300, as used in the striking new GR-S version of the iconic vehicle. In standard form, the engine produces 305 kW of power at 5,200 rpm and 650 Nm of torque from 2,000 rpm. However, in race trim those numbers are significantly higher.

With TOYOTA GAZOO Racing's WEC and WRC teams chalking up milestone victories in their disciplines, all eyes will be on the latest Toyota Hilux when it breaks cover towards the end of 2021. With the WEC team competing on tarmac, and the WRC team taking care of the rally action, the rally-raid team is a force to be reckoned with in the world's most iconic cross-country motor race, the Dakar Rally.



Dakar 2022 will again be based solely in the Saudi Arabian desert, though the race follows a clockwise route this time. The race will start on January 2<sup>nd</sup> in the northern city of Ha'il, before traversing southward to the Empty Quarter. The rest day will be in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on January 8<sup>th</sup>, before the race heads south-westward to the finish in the city of Jeddah on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

The race will kick off with a prologue to determine the starting positions for Stage 1. Two looped stages will also feature on the route, though the details have yet to be announced by the organisers. Finally, the traditional Marathon Stage will see the crews race away from the main bivouac to an unsupported encampment for an overnight stop, before racing back to rejoin their technical crews at the main bivouac. This is a challenging part of the race, that often plays a major role in its outcome.

The final route for the Dakar 2022 is yet to be announced, but it is expected that the terrain will be similar to that encountered in 2020 and 2021.

#### QUOTES:

Glyn Hall, Team Principal: "We are very pleased to announce a team that is very similar to last year. With Nasser and Giniel heading up our attack, and Henk gaining confidence, we are excited to take on the 2022 edition of the Dakar Rally. Our new GR DKR Hilux T1+ is progressing well, and we are confident that the new car will allow us to compete on a new level, come January."

Nasser Al-Attiyah: "I am very happy to be back with the TOYOTA GAZOO Racing team for Dakar 2022. We won the race together in 2019, and now we have a new bullet coming. I am excited for our prospects, especially with the new GR DKR Hilux T1+, which is definitely faster and more capable than the previous car.."

Giniel de Villiers: "The Dakar is one of the toughest races on the planet, but it suits our new Hilux perfectly. The new wheels, suspension travel and especially the move to the turbo-powered petrol engine from the Land Cruiser, is sure to make a big difference to our campaign. The engine is highly responsive, and allows us to push the new car to the limit. Saudi has proven to be a worthy host for the race and we expect that this will again be the case in 2022."

Henk Lategan: "My first taste of Dakar in 2021 was amazing, but unfortunately, our progress was cut short by a crash in Stage 5. Even so, I am confident that we have the pace to race in the front pack, and fielding a new car with a turbo petrol engine should make for an enticing battle."

Shameer Variawa: “Finishing the race in 2021 was a highlight of my career to date, but I also saw opportunities for more pace in the future. Hopefully Dakar 2022 offers the same opportunities, so that I can capitalise on the experience I gained to date.”

Mathieu Baumel: “The Dakar Rally is an amazing challenge, and I am looking forward to return to Saudi Arabia with Nasser, in order to fight for victory again. The new car is very promising, and if our first tests are anything to go by, the new petrol engine, bigger suspension travel and increased tyre sizes may just bring the additional power, control and puncture-protection that we lacked in the recent past.”

Dennis Murphy: “For me, racing with GinieL has been highly rewarding in the SACCS. Now, I’ll have a chance to navigate for him in the Dakar, and to make things even better, we’ll be doing so in the new GR DKR Hilux T1+. The car is exciting on many levels, but the increase in tyre diameter, together with bigger suspension travel, will make it not only faster but also safer for the crew.”

Brett Cummings: “Navigating in the T1+ promises to be somewhat easier, especially with the digital roadbook which is mounted to the dash of the car. In the older specification Hilux, heavy braking and hard acceleration often made it a challenge to read the roadbook. Now, with more suspension travel and bigger tyres, this problem should be mitigated.”

Danie Stassen: “Competing in Dakar has been a dream for me. Now, I have the opportunity to join Shameer in the world’s toughest race, and I cannot wait for the race to start. We race together in the South African championship, so we know each other well. But Dakar promises to be a much bigger challenge than anything we’ve taken on together before.”



Left to right: Nasser Al-Attiyah and Mathieu Baumel

**Nasser Al-Attiyah (Qatar), Driver**

**Career Highlights:**

- Dakar Rally Winner (2011, 2015, 2019)
- FIA World Cup for Cross Country Rallies Winner (2008, 2015, 2016, 2017)

**Mathieu Baumel (France), Navigator**



**Career Highlights:**

- Dakar Rally Winner (2015, 2019)
- FIA World Cup for Cross Country Rallies Winner (2015, 2016, 2017)



Left to right: Giniel de Villiers and Dennis Murphy

**Giniel de Villiers (South Africa), Driver****Career Highlights:**

- Dakar Rally Winner (2009)
- Rally of Morocco Winner (2003, 2006, 2007, 2019)

**Dennis Murphy (South Africa), Navigator****Career Highlights:**

- South African Cross-Country Navigator Champion (2013, 2014, 2015, 2018)



Left to right: Henk Lategan and Brett Cummings

**Henk Lategan (South Africa), Driver**

**Career Highlights:**

- South African Cross-Country Champion (2019, 2020)

**Brett Cummings (South Africa), Navigator**

**Career Highlights:**

- South African Cross-Country Navigator Champion (2019, 2020)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> in Malle Moto, Dakar 2014



Left to right: Shameer Variawa and Danie Stassen

**Shameer Variwa (South Africa), Driver**

**Career Highlights:**

- South African Off-Road Champion (2000)

**Danie Stassen (South Africa), Navigator**

**Career Highlights:**

- South African Cross-Country Navigator Champion (2012, 2013, 2015, 2016)

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