

Bulletproof Hardbody answer to hijackings

Bianca Wenke

Nissan SA has joined forces with a leading armouring company to make the idea of owning a bullet resistant vehicle a reality.

The South African hijacking statistics is enough to let anybody think about their safety when they get behind the steering wheel these days. Currently over 115 vehicles are hijacked every day in our country.

Nissan SA decided to have bullet resistant conversions done on their Hardbody single and double cab range as well as the X-Trail and Almera. These conversions are done by specialists in the field of vehicle armouring based in Gauteng, the same company that does most of the cash-in-transit vehicle armouring in South Africa. A whole host of areas gets Level II protection, securing occupants against all handguns up to and including 9 mm parabellum full metal jacket @ 358m/second.

The biggest concern for the average person on the street when considering an armoured vehicle is the costs involved. In the international arena the price of an armoured vehicle ranges from between R140 000 and R400 000 extra.

Providing for South African crime conditions is a task not taken lightly by Nissan and their partners on this project. They have opted for a lower cost, volume based concept, standardising the Nissan SA products and "mass producing" to lower the costs and make it more accessible to the general public. A standard VIP conversion done on a Nissan Hardbody double cab costs less than R46 000 extra, only a fraction of what is charged on the international scene.

The cost of armouring a Nissan can be worked into the finance package of your vehicle and it has been proved that insurance premiums drop by up to 20 percent.

The added weight can hardly be felt as only 135kg is added to the standard double cab and 107kg added to the single cab. The conversion is done very discreetly in order to keep the vehicle's low profile. These vehicles are targeted for everyone from commercial farmers to car rental companies.

BB Auto in Polokwane is the local Nissan dealer who makes these vehicles available to the public and a Hardbody with the complete conversion can be viewed at BB Auto's showroom until 23 April.



Photo: Bianca Wenke

Willie Hofman (left) from BB Auto in Polokwane and Grant Austin from Armour Systems with a Nissan Hardbody that has been bulletproofed. With them is regional director of Nissan SA Pieter van der Merwe.



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A pane of bullet-proof glass that has been shot at shows the effectiveness of the glass. This is the same glass that replaces the standard windows on the Nissan Hardbody when an armoured conversion is done.