

34th Total Economy Run to take place in the Free State in September

The 34th running of the annual Total Economy Run will take place in and around Thaba 'Nchu in the Free State over a 1 100-km route from September 9 to 11.

This unique annual event, which boasts one of the longest-running sponsorships in motoring, starts and finishes at the Black Mountain Hotel in Thaba 'Nchu.

The 2010 Total Economy Run, which is organised by the Pretoria Motor Club, takes place against a background of high fuel prices and assumes major significance for vehicle owners and potential buyers in South Africa.

"The fuel efficiency of vehicles available to the South African public is now more than ever an important sales factor on the showroom floor," said clerk of the course Zybrand Wepener. "As it has done over the past 34 years, the Total Economy Run provides the motorist with a valuable yardstick of the fuel efficiency of well-maintained and skillfully driven modern passenger vehicles in varying conditions over a representative selection of South African tarred roads.

"The whole point of the economy run is to provide a meaningful comparison of fuel consumption figures achieved by different vehicles running at the same time, under the same conditions and on the same roads."

All competing vehicles will use Total Evolution fuel and will have nitrogen in their tyres.

Total Evolution fuel is the result of continuous development by Total Research Centres around the world to develop a formula that meets statutory specifications and new engine technologies. Benefits of Total evolution fuel include improved engine protection and increased efficiency, reduced fuel consumption as a result of a cleaner engine and less friction, and reduced CO² and other pollutant emissions.

Tyres filled with nitrogen retain their pressure better and run at cooler temperatures, thereby extending tyre life and reducing fuel consumption.

Strong support is expected from the country's automotive industry and the organisers are hoping for entries from brands new to the event.

"I congratulate those manufacturers, importers and dealers who have had the faith in their product to compete in the past, and I hope that those who have not yet entered will consider doing so this year," said Wepener.

There will be 16 classes, nine according to engine capacity for petrol driven passenger vehicles (from 'up to 1 100 cc' to 'over 3 000 cc'), five according to engine capacity for diesel driven passenger vehicles (from 'up to 1 600 cc' to 'over 3 000 cc', and a class each for petrol and diesel four-wheel drive SUVs and Double Cabs. The SUVs and Double Cabs will be scored on fuel consumption.

Documentation, scrutineering and refuelling will take place at Black Mountain Hotel from 12h00 on Thursday (September 9).

Entry forms can be obtained from the event secretary, Helene Mante, e-mail helene.mante.ext@nsn.com or telephone 012 678 3507. Entries close on August 16 at 20h00.