

motor

ALL YOUR MOTORING NEEDS

2021 Toyota HILUX

An everyday
workhorse



2021 Lexus RX
...gets a little better



GET YOUR BIZNA BACK ON TRACK

KCB MSME loans now at discounted rates.

To apply, please visit your nearest branch or contact your Relationship Manager

#BackOnTrack



*Terms and Conditions Apply

Regulated by the Central Bank of Kenya



A VICTORY OF ELEGANCE OVER THE EVERY DAY.



A triumph of aesthetic design and exceptional engineering, the BMW X7 offers the best of all worlds. With its blistering performance matched only by its luxurious interior, how you arrive at your destination is now as important as your journey.

To experience the drive you deserve, call 0704 320 520 today.

BMW Nairobi

Showroom: Ground Floor, One Africa, Westlands
Service Centre: Delta Annex, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya
Service Centre: Enterprise Jomo Kenyatta Foundation, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 704 320 520 / +254 719 320 520
Email: enquireske@inchcape.co.ke
www.bmw.co.ke

Inchcape Kenya is the official BMW Distributor in Kenya.

2021 Lexus RX

One of the biggest changes to 2021 RX is the significant enhancements that contribute to driving comfort thanks to changes to the suspension and increased body rigidity.



The Lexus RX series has long been the company's best-selling vehicle. Since its debut in 1999 as the RX 300, this midsize luxury crossover SUV has won over buyers with its easy-to-drive nature, plush interior, virtually silent and vibration-free powertrain and very high build quality. Thanks to above-average reliability, the RX has provided its owners with a stress-free experience. The RX range consists of the RX 300, RX350 and RX450 h. The current model, which has been on sale since 2016, has received minor updates for 2021.

Redesigned looks

The RX unmissable gapping spindle grille remains largely unchanged for 2021. However, Lexus designers have added a new modulation to the 'L' pattern mesh and a new frame that blends into the side of the front bumpers providing a unified profile. The new slender headlamps give the front fascia a sharper look. The front bumper now features a line below the redesigned headlights, which separates the top and bottom portions of the front grill. Below the line are two side intakes and LED fog lights.

Moving on to the side of the 2021 RX is a character line that runs from the front of the vehicle to the rear. The blacked-out C-pillars provide the illusion of a floating roofline. The rear fenders blend with the bottom section of the C-pillars, lending a distinctively elegant and powerful shape to side. The redesigned rear bumper features a new underbody shield that hides the exhaust and muffler while accentuating the vehicle's width on the hybrid version of the RX. The redesigned LED L-shaped taillights, which wrap around the sides of the vehicle, create a distinguishable pattern at night.

Enhanced ride

One of the biggest changes to 2021 RX is the significant enhancements that contribute to driving comfort thanks to changes to the suspension and increased body rigidity. Lexus aims to deliver a pleasurable driving experience to the RX range through agile handling and exhilarating driving pleasure. New to the 2021 RX range is the Active Cornering Assist (ACA) that suppresses understeer when stepping on the throttle in mid-corner by adjusting the characteristics of the Electric Power Steering (EPS) and using the brakes. The result is a truly linear steering feel, allowing the RX to accurately trace the desired driving. Lexus engineers have also redesigned 2021 RX's to feature a new Friction Control Device, which further reduces >>



OUR RATINGS

Design	4
Aerodynamics	4
Interior	5
Exterior	4
Features	5

What we like

- Smooth ride
- Quiet and luxurious interior
- Plenty of standard equipment

What we dislike

- No local dealer support
- The design might not be to everyone's taste
- Limited legroom on the L-variant third row

Key rivals

- Mercedes GLE
- BMW X5
- Jaguar F-Pace



Even though this current-generation RX is getting ageing fast, it still remains a strong option in the competitive luxury SUV segment. It delivers smooth acceleration and, combined with the unflappable ride quality, makes the RX one of the most comfortable SUVs you can buy.

>> high-frequency vibrations caused by road surface imperfections.

Unchanged performance

The engine choices for the 2021 RX remain unchanged for the RX 300, RX 350 and RX 450 h. The RX 300 features a four-cylinder turbocharged unit with an output of 228 hp (170 kW) and 350 Nm of torque, which is paired to a 6-speed automatic. The RX 350 is powered by a 3.5 litre V6 with an output of 295 hp (220 kW) and 363 Nm of torque merged to an eight-speed automatic. The RX 450 h is equipped with the RX 350's 3.5 litre V6 and an additional electric motor for a combined output of 308 hp (230 kW) and 335 Nm of torque. This particular unit is married to a CVT.



Luxurious interior

Inside, the RX's luxurious interior is one of comfort and luxury, with repositioned trim pieces that exude a high level of class. A large heads-up display (HUD) takes centre stage, while the information display area, featuring a 12.3-inch monitor, has been separated from the main operations area. The monitor now features touch functionality and comes as standard with

Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. Music is channelled throughout the interior via a 12-speaker system or an optional 835-watt, 15-speaker Mark Levinson Premium Surround System. Optional two 11.6-inch rear screens mounted on the back of the front seat, provide entertainment to the rear seat passengers.

The functions of the various interior components are distinguished by carefully selected materials. The centre-cluster

controls and the air-conditioner vents are composed of durable materials, while soft, luxurious materials are used for those parts which come into contact with human hands. Rear-seat occupants are treated to plenty of leg and knee space. The seats offer heating and power reclining features and also provide a luxury feel. The retractable power panorama roof enhances the RX interior's spaciousness and provides occupants with a refreshing open-air experience.

Practical L variant

With the RX L models, one has the option of third-row seating. The RX-L is stretched by 110 mm (4.3 inches) at the rear and used a steeper rear window angle than on the two-row models. This offers great headroom for third-row passengers and greater storage space when with the seats folded down. The standard seven-seat version uses a 60/40 split bench-type seat. Access to the third row is made easy with the touch of a lever that slides the second seat forward. The available six-seat configuration features second-row captain's chairs that make third-row access easier with walk-in convenience. A tri-zone climate control system gives third-row passengers separate rear air conditioning and dedicated vents.

F-Sport variant

For those who prefer even more excitement and performance in their luxury sport-utility vehicles, there is the RX F Sport, which is available with all of the model's engine offerings. RX designated with the F Sport badge is equipped with several special

visual and performance features that set them apart from other versions. In the RX's case, the spindle grille and lower centre-piece of the rear bumper possess an "F" mesh design, instantly giving the vehicle a sportier look.

Exclusive F Sport alloy wheels give the 2021 RX a classy look. Inside, the driver is treated to a custom F Sport instrument cluster as well as a sport steering wheel, featuring perforated leather and an attractive F Sport emblem, complete with paddle shifters. Exclusive colours and trim pieces are also part of the sporty package. The RX F Sport's performance on the road has been enhanced by an active stabilizer system that keeps the vehicle's body movement in check during cornering.

All-round safety

The full-length side curtain airbags cover seats. The Lexus Safety System + features Pre-Collision System (PCS) and Pedestrian Detection, Lane Departure Alert (LDA) with Steering Assist, Intelligent High Beam (IHB) and All-Speed Dynamic Radar Cruise Control. The optional safety system includes a Blind Spot Monitor (BSM) with Intuitive Parking Assist and Cross-Traffic Braking.

Conclusion

Even though this current-generation RX is getting ageing fast, it still remains a strong option in the competitive luxury SUV segment. It delivers smooth acceleration and, combined with the unflappable ride quality, makes the RX one of the most comfortable SUVs you can buy. The Lexus brand has no local support at the moment but parts are available from Toyota Kenya, located along Mombasa Road and Westlands in Nairobi. Toyota should consider adding the Lexus brand into its expanding portfolio in Kenya. Prices in South Africa start at R 1,074,200 for the RX 350 for those who want to ship in a tropicalized unit. ■

Mazda CX-9

The CX-9 is an attractive offering from Mazda. There is plenty on offer from its head turning looks, powerful and thrifty power plant together, the posh and spacious interior plus a long list of standard equipment make it the premium SUV to have.

BY DUNCAN WACHIRA



Ever since Mazda decided to replace the CX-9 in 2016 with an all-new model, the three row SUV has continued to garner popularity and success all over the world. The CX-9 is proof that Mazda's fun-to-drive zoom-zoom formula used for small cars like the Mazda 3 compact saloon can also work well on a three-row SUV. This matched with a blend of head turning looks, spacious interior, lively performance and an attractive price.

Looks

The Mazda KODO design has been on an upward trend from 2011 when it premiered in the CX-5 compact crossover. On the CX-9 the KODO design gives the premium SUV a stunning look.

The grill design mirrors other models in Mazda line up with its V like shape. Although the large central grille has trickled down to other models such as the Mazda 3, it looks best on the flagship CX-9.

Flanking the grille is a set of sharp headlights that

give the Hiroshima manufactured SUV a sharp and sporty look. To give its SUV broader shoulders, Mazda employed a design line that starts in the hood and carries through to the rear fenders.

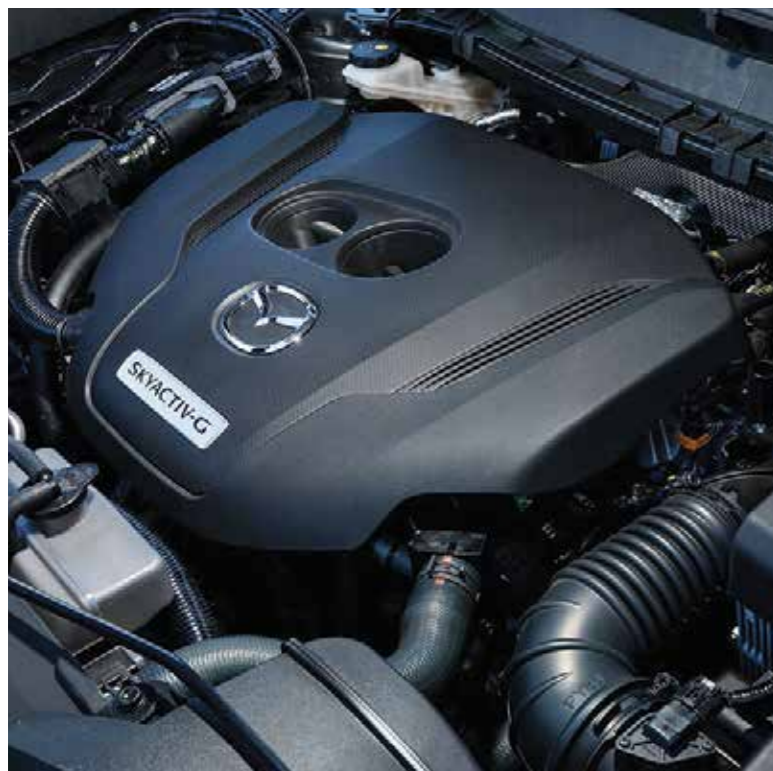
Break up the rear boot's design is a single piece of chrome trim that unites both rear LED lights. Visually speaking, the rear lights appear relatively small, considering the CX-9's size. However, that has largely to do with the fact that they wrap around the rear fender.

The rear bumper is also quite sizable, with the plastic cladding stretching to the end of the powered boot lid. The seven-seater SUV measures slightly over five metres in length and the width is nearly two meters. The CX-9 appears significantly smaller than its footprint might suggest, thanks to its design.

Power

Behind the large grill is the famous SKYACTIV-G 2.5T power plant, which powers other models in the line up from the compact Mazda 3 saloon to the CX-5 and >>

Exclusive F Sport alloy wheels give the 2021 RX a classy look. Inside, the driver is treated to a custom F Sport instrument cluster as well as a sport steering wheel, featuring perforated leather and an attractive F Sport emblem, complete with paddle shifters. Exclusive colours and trim pieces are also part of the sporty package.



>> its 7-seater sibling the CX-8. With a displacement of 2500cc and four cylinders the direct-injection turbo-charged engine delivers 250 hp and 450 Nm of torque. It can accelerate from 0 to 100 in under 7.5 seconds. You would be forgiven for thinking that a 2.5-litre engine is small for such a large 1865kg SUV.

Thankfully, the engine works incredibly well, even with a fully loaded car. Everything from standing-start acceleration through to overtaking is done with ease thanks to the wide torque band on offer, a characteristic of most SKYACTIV engines. The gearbox is smooth and pairs well with the engine.

The six-speed automatic uses a convectional torque converter that delivers smooth driving. Selecting the Sports button on the centre console holds the gear shifts in order to boost acceleration. The engine works well with Shell's V-power as compared to fuelling it with the unleaded petrol. Mazda quotes the fuel consumption rate at under 8.8 litres per 100 kilometres.

Interior

There is plenty to love inside the Mazda CX-9. Regardless of where you look, the CX-9 screams luxury. On top of the dash, you'll find a soft leather-like material that covers the top portions. As you work your way down to the chrome-lined air vents, you'll notice additional subtle plastic touches. It is worth noting that although these trim pieces are plastic, they feature a pleasant texture that serves to refine their look.

Behind the leather wrapped steering wheel, you'll find Mazda's semi-digital instrument cluster. Instead of just being a flat-screen, the instrument cluster features

The CX-9 does an excellent job of handling the bumps and undulations on both tarmac and corrugated roads. The all-wheel drive system only activates when the car detects a slip from the front wheels.

There's also a clever recess in the lower portion of the C-pillar for kids to grab when climbing in. While it's primarily built for kids and small people, the third row can be used by adults with the second row slid forward slightly.

Storage spaced is pegged at 230 litres with the third-row seats upright and expands to 810 litres by folding the third row into the floor.

Ride

The ride is fantastic. The CX-9 does an excellent job of handling the bumps and undulations on both tarmac and corrugated roads. The all-wheel drive system only activates when the car detects a slip from the front wheels. The additional rear differential lock makes it easier for one to free the CX-9 from sticky situations. A full suite of active safety technologies, including forward and reverse autonomous emergency braking with an integrated pedestrian detection system, adaptive cruise control with stop-and-go, lane-keep assist, lane departure warning, blind-spot monitoring, rear cross-traffic alert and driver attention monitoring, make the drive easier and more pleasurable especially on long trips.

Conclusion

The CX-9 is an attractive offering from Mazda. There is plenty on offer from its head turning looks, powerful and thrifty power plant together, the posh and spacious interior plus a long list of standard equipment make it the premium SUV to have. Visit CMC, the franchise holders for Mazda, Nairobi Showroom located along Lusaka Road. The CX-9 is priced at Kshs 7.8 million. ■

chromed arches that resemble analogue gauges. Aside from being tastefully finished, the CX-9's screen is selective with the information it shows you. While there are various safety systems on board, you only get visual notifications when they are updated instead of a constant feed of sensor and camera warnings.

Turn your attention to the centre of the dash, and you'll find a new 10.25-inch infotainment display, which runs the Japanese brand's latest 'Mazda Connect' operating system featuring Apple CarPlay and Android Auto smartphone mirroring. The system comes pre-installed with local navigation maps as standard. The new system boots up quicker compared to the old MZD based infotainment system.

Mazda's rotary dial controller allows you to quickly and accurately manoeuvre

the system. The CX-9's 12-speaker Bose sound system features a 294-Watt amplifier and speakers scattered throughout the cabin. Sitting directly ahead of the driver is a head-up display that shows the current speed, any navigation commands, cruise control information and detected speed sign information.

The seats themselves are infinitely comfortable. Both the driver's 10-way adjustable seat and the front passenger seat are heated and cooled. Second-row passengers get access to a fold-down centre armrest with USB charging ports, along with their own climate control zone and heating for the two outer seats.

Access to the third row is through a clever one-touch button that drops the seat and slides it forward. It allows easy access to the third row, even for adults.

2021 Toyota Hilux

The Hilux maintains its renowned off-road performance, load-carrying capability, stability and body control. The retuning of spring rates, shock absorbers and suspension bushes as well as revised cabin mounts deliver a more agile handling response and improving ride comfort, particularly when unladen on country roads and over speed humps.



BY DUNCAN WACHIRA

Since its initial launch in 1968, the legendary Toyota Hilux has proved its invincibility time and again, having conquered the North Pole, Icelandic volcanoes and the Antarctic continent, and also achieving podium finishes in the Dakar Rally in 2019.

The model has sold more than 13 million units across the world and is regarded by

many as the world's most favourite pick-up. 2021 brings a host of updates to the 8th generation Hilux, which has been on sale since 2015.

Looks

This is revamped with a large trapezoidal grille that dominates the front design and incorporates more pronounced horizontal elements to deliver a wider, more planted look. The newly designed headlights are smaller for a meaner appearance and

feature LED units with bright chrome surround. At the side is a more muscular impression created by integrated wheel-arch flares and a dynamic feature line running from front to rear. The side steps are neatly integrated to the side and feature chrome finish on high spec variants.

Different wheel sizes ranging from 16-18 inches are available depending on the selected model grade. The cabin silhouette flows to an angled C-pillar. At the rear are the redesigned fenders that extend

rearwards while a unified line connects the cabin and redesigned rear bumper with an integrated step. Distinctive new LED taillights to enhance night-time visibility and reduce power consumption.

Interior

Is tweaked with a plethora list of changes consisting, among others, of a new 8-inch centre infotainment screen. Gone is the capacitive-touch interface and in its place are physical knobs for easy operation. Also

included with the new system are features such as Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, voice recognition and a powerful JBL 6-speaker system.

Behind the steering wheel are new speed and rev counters, which feature a cleaner and more premium appearance with white numbers and pointers on a grey-metallic background. The twin dials sit on either side of a high-precision colour 4.2-inch multi-information display (MID) that includes a digital speed readout. In

addition to conveying safety settings, odometer and trip displays and other driving support information, the MID now offers even greater driver comfort and convenience features, including the front-wheel angle.

The driver seat features electric power adjustment, on high spec versions of the Hilux, while the steering has reach adjustment for one to find an ideal driving position. The split-level glove box features a lockable lower >>



OUR RATINGS

Design	4
Aerodynamics	4
Interior	3
Exterior	4
Features	3

What we like

- Rugged look
- Off-road prowess
- Refined engines
- Improved room for the second row seats
- Accessible USB charging ports

Key rivals

- Ford Ranger
- Isuzu D-MAX
- Mitsubishi L200

>> compartment, whilst the upper compartment is connected to the HVAC system and may be used as a cool box for the storage of two 500 ml bottles.

Beneath its padded armrest lid is an optional AC 220V power outlet. The driver and passenger dashboard-mounted cup holders are positioned in front of the side air vents for drinks cooling. The transmission tunnel incorporates a further large cup holder and a storage tray, adjacent to which are two DC 12V accessory sockets and both AUX and USB ports for the connection of smartphones and portable media devices.

A 60:40 split tip-up rear seat is available to enhance Double Cab flexibility. Its lightweight structure means less effort is required to fold the seats, whilst its centre armrest is wide enough to be used by both occupants simultaneously.

Performance

Its improved through a number of substantive changes to the 2.8-litre and 2.4-litre four-cylinder power units for 2021. The bigger unit, found on high spec Hilux variants, has received a power bump from 177hp to 201 hp (150 KW) while torque is up by 100 Nm to 500 Nm (with the



The Hilux maintains its renowned off-road performance, load-carrying capability, stability and body control. The retuning of spring rates, shock absorbers and suspension bushes as well as revised cabin mounts deliver a more agile handling response and improving ride comfort, particularly when unladen on country roads and over speed humps.

six-speed automatic or 420 Nm with the six-speed manual). The updates result in stronger overtaking on the highway with maximum torque now available across a wider range of 1600-2800rpm (auto) and 1400-3400rpm (manual).

The Hilux maintains its low-rpm torque and driveability in the city and off-road conditions. The smaller 2.4-litre unit power output remains unchanged at 150 hp (111 kW) and 400 Nm of torque. However, Toyota has improved the engine's overall efficiency.

Ride and Handling

The Hilux maintains its renowned off-road performance, load-carrying capability, stability and body control. The retuning of spring rates, shock absorbers and suspension bushes as well as revised cabin

mounts deliver a more agile handling response and improving ride comfort, particularly when unladen on country roads and over speed humps. The Hilux 310 mm of ground clearance, 29- and 26-degrees approach and departure angles of respectively and 700 mm of wade depth.

The 4x4 version of the Hilux's off-road credentials has been further enhanced by the addition of a new electronic function (that can be activated in 2WD mode) replicating the effect of a mechanical limited-slip differential for improved traction

on low grip surfaces in 2-wheel drive mode (available on 4WD models only). The Downhill Assist Control is standard on all 4WD Hilux models.

Safety

This is enhanced by retaining its rigid, impact-absorbing structure, full range of electronic braking and traction-control technologies, emergency stop signal (hazard lights), reversing camera (pick-ups), seven airbags, and seatbelt reminders for all seats. The optional Toyota safety sense adds a pre-collision system that can detect pedestrians (day & night) and cyclist (day-time), high-speed active cruise control and lane-departure alert that offers steering assist (via the brakes) to prevent unintended wandering into another lane.

Conclusion

Toyota's best-selling pick-up soldiers on in 2021 with a host of much-needed updates, which offer a myriad of styling cues that enhance the pick-up's modern design, emphasise its tough underpinnings and keep the vehicle truly appealing. The 2021 Hilux is available from Toyota Kenya showrooms located in Westlands and along Uhuru Highway and Mombasa Road in Nairobi. All Toyota models are serviced from a wide branch and dealer network spread across Kenya. ■

Hip hop and Pan Africanism from Blitz the Ambassador to Beyoncé

We've seen important collaborations between hip hop artists across Africa and in the diaspora that go back to the early 1990s. But we see an increase after 2010. When African artists started using social media and file sharing, they were able to increase their collaborations.

MSIA KIBONA CLARK

Associate professor, Howard University

Hip hop is many things. Most recently it has become more of commodity, a commercial venture, but it has always been and remains a global culture that represents local realities. It speaks about where one is from – through rap lyrics, DJing, graffiti or breakdancing – by incorporating local slang, references, neighbourhood tales, sounds and styles.

Hip hop emerged in the 1970s in the South Bronx, in New York City in the US, among young, working class African Americans as well as Caribbean and Latino immigrants.

Hip hop culture's connection to African musical and social traditions would be well documented, including in my book *Hip Hop in Africa: Prophets of the City and Dustyfoot Philosophers*.

In its roots and manifestations, I argue, hip hop has also proven to be a powerful vehicle for spreading and shaping Pan Africanism.

Moving beyond borders

Pan Africanism is an acknowledgement of the social, cultural and historical bonds that unite people of African descent. It's an understanding of shared struggles and, as a result, shared destinies. It's also an understanding of the importance of dismantling

the divisions among African people in order to work towards greater social, cultural and political solidarity.

My work has focused on hip hop as a soundtrack for the trans nationalisation – the spreading beyond national borders – of African communities and identities.

This includes the increased and diversified migration of Africans to countries around the world. Today, an increasing number of Africans have lived in more than two countries. There have also been increased migrations to Africa from the African diaspora – people of African descent who are spread across the world. Some of these diaspora migrants are also Africans migrating to countries in Africa other than their own.

One artist whose work is both an articulation of these transnational trends and of an advancing Pan Africanism is Ghanaian-born, New York-based hip hop star Blitz the Ambassador.

We see this throughout his entire catalogue, from songs like *Emmet Still* and *Sankofa* on his 2005 album *Double Consciousness* to *Hello Africa* on his 2016 release *Diasporadical*.

In *Hello Africa* he raps:

Just touched down, Ecowas passport. Internationally known, I give 'em what they ask for. From Accra city all the way outta Marrakech...

He proceeds to take us on a journey across Africa in a way that acknowledges his identity as an African belonging to the continent, and also his transnational



In *Black is King*, we see the prominent influence of West African culture. The project was the product of the creative vision of Beyoncé, Ghanaian creative director Kwasi Fordjour and Ghanaian creatives Blitz Bazawule (Blitz the Ambassador) and Emmanuel Adjei.

relationship with the continent. He throws in different languages – Arabic, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Wolof – as he moves through different cities.

The new Pan Africanism

Pan Africanism is not a new idea, or movement. Its roots are pre-colonial. There continues to be serious investment in a Pan African agenda set by intellectuals like Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, C.L.R. James of Trinidad and W.E.B. DuBois of the US.

While we see growth in hip hop's Pan African voice through artists like Blitz the Ambassador, we do also see movement away from a United States of Africa under a socialist state as a primary goal of Pan Africanists. What then are some of the primary objectives of Pan Africanism today? African music, especially hip hop, has always given us clues.

Hip hop is an important catalyst for Pan Africanism today. We are seeing a major cultural shift through collaborations between African and African diaspora artists, as well as the inclusion of Pan African elements in their music.

Some of these songs are significant in bringing together artists known for making social statements, such as *Opps* (2018) with Vince Staples (US) and Yugen Blakrok (South Africa) for the Black Panther soundtrack. There are many more, like the remix to *Times Up* (2020) with Sampa the Great and Junglepussy.

Sampa the Great's work embodies Pan Africanism today. Zambia-born, Botswana-raised hip hop artist Sampa The Great spends her time between Australia and Botswana. Her album *The Return* (2019) was an important work that received much praise. From it, the songs *Final Form* and *Energy* are representations of hip hop's Pan African voice.

In the songs' music videos, for example, we see dance styles found in diaspora and African communities. We see facial paint designs like those seen in South Africa and masks like those found in Mali. In *Energy* she features British-Sierra Leonean artist Nadeem Din-Gabisi performing poetry in Pidgin English. >>



Above: Beyoncé's Black is King cover.



Below: Sampa the Great during a past performance. Photo | Courtesy

>> **Collaborations**

We've seen important collaborations between hip hop artists across Africa and in the diaspora that go back to the early 1990s. But we see an increase after 2010. When African artists started using social media and file sharing, they were able to increase their collaborations.

In 2011, Senegalese hip hop pioneer Didier Awadi released the major collaborative project, *Présidents d'Afrique* (Presidents of Africa) featuring collaborations with artists from Burkina Faso, DRC, Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, France and the US. It also sampled speeches from past leaders like Aimé Césaire, Nyerere, Nkrumah, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King.

And the growing presence of Africans in important positions in the US enter-

In *Black is King*, we see the prominent influence of West African culture. The project was the product of the creative vision of Beyoncé, Ghanaian creative director Kwasi Fordjour and Ghanaian creatives Blitz Bazawule (Blitz the Ambassador) and Emmanuel Adjei. Also on the project were Nigerian creative directors Ibra Ake and Jenn Nkiru.

tainment industry has meant these collaborations are beginning to happen in more mainstream platforms.

Two big budget projects that have attracted significant attention are the US

film *Black Panther* (2018) and US pop star Beyoncé's *Black is King* visual album (2020).

There are many important criticisms of these projects. Major labels prefer proven (profitable) formulas over artist innovation. There is a tendency towards a homogenisation – a lumping together – of Africa and a marginalisation of African artists' voices.

But we also need to understand that both projects are products of the transnationalisation of African communities and identities. They exist in part because of the increased mobility of African communities around the world. We also must recognise their impact on helping to cultivate Pan African identities.

In *Black is King*, we see the prominent influence of West African culture. The project was the product of the creative vision of Beyoncé, Ghanaian creative director Kwasi Fordjour and Ghanaian creatives Blitz Bazawule (Blitz the Ambassador) and Emmanuel Adjei. Also on the project were Nigerian creative directors Ibra Ake and Jenn Nkiru.

Pan Africanism is hip hop

There will be more of these projects produced. There will also continue to be these projects produced on smaller budgets. But imagine if Sampa the Great's *Final Form* had a *Black is King* budget? Would there be criticism of this artist if she incorrectly used a particular African symbol?

Songs like *Final Form* and *Hello Africa* are celebrations of Blackness, in global spaces. This Pan Africanism is recognition that African peoples are transnational and multicultural. It is an understanding that African peoples must stand together. It is also a call to understand and respect the differences in our struggles and to resist the temptation of imposing "universal" models of liberation. Pan Africanism is also feminist, anti-homophobic and anti-imperialist.

The importance of African music and hip hop is that it also clues us in on what is going on with Pan Africanism. Pan Africanism is not a movement that faded away or only lives on among a small minority. It is dynamic, and has adjusted to new realities. ■

THE NEW LAND ROVER DEFENDER

TECHNOLOGY IS EVERYWHERE THESE DAYS



ABOVE & BEYOND



THE NEW LAND ROVER DEFENDER STARTING FROM \$136 000*

The new Land Rover Defender doesn't just have the strength, it has the intelligence. Inside that muscular body is an incredible brain. With technology built around a smartphone-like interface, it's completely intuitive. Always on, ready for work immediately. And the all-new infotainment system, Pivi Pro, provides a seamless, streamlined experience. This is 21st century technology for 21st century adventurers. Defender. An icon in a category of one.

Book your test drive today

Inchcape Kenya

Land Rover Center, Ground Floor, Oracle Tower, Westlands
enquirieske@inchcape.co.ke
254 0 730 191 000

landrover-kenya.com

5 YEARS LAND ROVER CARE
OR 150 000 KM / 100 000 KM
WARRANTY | SERVICING

*Ts and Cs apply.



Tanqueray

AN EXQUISITE CITRUS BURST
IN EVERY SIP



EXCESSIVE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IS HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH.
NOT FOR SALE TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS

www.eabl.com

