

WHEN SHOULD YOU GET A NOSE CUT?

By Samuel Balagadde

Normally, the front parts of a car are vulnerable to crash impact. Some are repairable, while others require replacement, depending on the accident's severity. Sourcing damaged parts can be cumbersome and costly.

However, repairs through panel-beating can restore damaged parts like the bonnet and side bumpers to their original state, says Drake Musoke, a specialist in car panel-beating and respraying based in Ndeba, Kampala.

"When the impact of the accident on the front parts is severe, it is often preferred to source a nose cut, depending on the owner's budget," Musoke says. In the automotive industry, a nose cut refers to a vehicle part with all its components, cut off for use as a replacement on another vehicle.

Repairing a vehicle with a nose cut involves replacing the entire front car assembly, including headlights, bumper, grill and radiator support, with a single unit cut from another vehicle. Musoke says accumulated damages to front car parts can make replacing them with a nose cut a cost-effective option.

"While nose cuts are a popular and affordable way to source front-end car parts, they carry risks regarding safety, structural soundness, and reliability," Musoke warns.

Ibrahim Mwebe, a dealer in used car parts, agrees that improperly fixed nose cuts can affect a vehicle's structure if not done professionally.

Emmanuel Aleti, an inspector of motor vehicles, says nose cuts can only be fixed if the crash did not compromise the vehicle's structural integrity. He advises for inspection of accident vehicles to determine if they are roadworthy, especially after repairs.

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