

HOW BARIGYE BOUGHT HER CAR ONLINE

BY NICHOLAS KAJOBA

PHOTO BY NICHOLAS KAJOBA

Ashley Barigye, who works with Smile Telecommunications, owns a modest Toyota Spacio model 2000.

She bought the silver car online about two years ago at sh12m. Barigye says she got the car after five weeks. A Spacio is around 4260mm to 4275mm approximately. Toyota Spacio model 2000 is the second generation based on the Corolla E120 platform (chassis).

Why Spacio

Barigye says the car was her first. "Spacio is my first car. I basically got it because of low fuel consumption and because it is easy to maintain. I usually service the car after two or three months, but it also depends on the distance I have moved.

"The service costs me about sh110,000 after changing the engine oil, spark plugs, air cleaner and an oil spray. I find it easy to drive the Spacio even in the city traffic jams. I can easily see all around my car to manoeuvre through tight spaces. The price of the car was also affordable compared to other cars that most people drive.



Barigye likes Spacio because it is comfortable and easy to maintain

Features of the car

The Spacio is a hatchback with a VVTi engine with a capacity of 1500 cc. It is a front-wheel-drive, which make it easier to drive through slippery roads than a rear-wheel-drive.

It also has a front-mounted engine, making it more fuel-friendly since it pulls the car.

Barigye's car has a double overhead camshaft, giving it more power than one with the same engine size, but with a single camshaft.

Disadvantages

Barigye says the car is small and takes a few people; it can

take only five people and that is after squeezing them in. She fears to drive on highways with fast-moving and big vehicles.

"My car is low and inconveniencing on roads with potholes and humps. I have scratched my bumper several times. I also have issues with taxi drivers who bully me on the road. They overtake anywhere and always wedge their cars in front of mine in traffic jams. It is annoying!"

And her dream car: "I still like my Spacio because of its comfort, but I would like to own a KIA vehicle in future".

ASHLEY BARIGYE EXPLAINS HOW SHE GOT HER CAR

- I first decided which type of car I wanted to buy, the model, engine capacity and the year of manufacture.
- I asked friends for reputable car export sites on the Internet. They advised me to buy a car from a trusted dealer, preferably one who had a record of selling cars in Uganda. I decided to buy a car from a Japanese company.
- After identifying the car and negotiating its cost, insurance and freight to Mombasa with the seller, I again asked my friends to calculate the import duty and other taxes for me before placing the order.
- On this figure, I added the transportation cost from Mombasa to Kampala, port fees, clearing agent's pay and border fees.
- This helped to know the total amount the car would cost me.
- I then confirmed my order online and signed an online agreement with the seller.
- The seller sent me a pro-forma invoice with details of the car, his company and bank account on which to deposit the money.
- Armed with the pro-forma invoice, I went to my bank, filled in a TT form with all the details and asked my bank to wire the money from my account.
- After paying for the car, I got a good customs clearing agent and waited for

copies of the Bill of Lading, inspection certificate and car export certificate to be sent by the seller.

● All along, I was in touch with the seller online. He informed me when the ship was sailing off and when it would dock at Mombasa. He assured me that he would send the documents immediately the ship leaves Japan, and he did.

● When I got the documents, I handed them over to the clearing agent to arrange for the delivery of the car to Kampala.

● The clearing agent informed me when the car arrived at the bond and I happily went to look at it. It was as I had seen it on the Internet; only a few scratches on the front fender.

● The agent processed the taxation papers and I paid the money in the bank. I then paid for the number-plates, the third-party insurance, the bond fees, his handling fees and got my car on the road.

● You do not need to travel to Mombasa port to pick your car. Hand over all the car documents to your clearing agent.

● If you delay to pick the car from Mombasa beyond the grace period of 14 days, you pay demurrage charges.

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