

WHY OLD CARS in AFRICA?

- What are these old cars?

old cars are second hand goods that has once been used and then resold usually not yet obsolete. This business is found mostly between Africa and Europe with the latter being the exporting country and the former as the importing country.

In a larger view, machineries and equipments are also imported to Africa. This deal has been and it continues to be a very important sector in the world. Since 1970's African enterprises have recognised these items from European countries to represent low cost and fast solutions of the problem of replacing outdated machines and cars. Dealers in Europe have seen the market gap and are now extremely active in this field.

Used over old cars have a value of approx. \$50 dollars annually. The large proportion of the old cars are sent to Africa of almost 500 000 second hand vehicles with a unit price of less than £2 500 and an average age of 6-8 years old originates from Germany only.

More also, the oldest, rustiest and most damaged cars make their way to Africa. Approx. 3.2 million personal vehicles are taken off German roads each year and end up in the scrapyards of Africa.

- Environmental impacts

The annual export of over 300 000 old cars to West Africa has led to an annual addition of 6000 tonnes of nitrogen oxide and 70 000 tonnes of carbon monoxide. This has only helped increase global warming with its devastating effects. This substantial emission generated from the rapidly growing number of old cars in Africa is alarming.

- What do individuals say?

Due to this field of business, many persons have said their feelings to such deal;

These are the various sayings in quotes;

"Old cars are sold all over the world and single out Africa is not fair".

"If the items shipped to Africa are bad, then it should be a shame to the country of origin for allowing it"

"African leaders need better import policies to safeguard against abuse and greed."

"In Uganda old cars are called 'Emivumba' meaning they are durable, cheap and friendly. Proving the government should not ban their imports"

"They should be controlled"

"Africa still needs these goods until the whole Africa can self provide cars. But African governments are still having a rough time to improve on the living standard and infrastructures of each country. So why ban?"

"Not everyone can afford new cars."

"Who will stop the importation of these old cars? Our corrupt leaders are avid patrons"

Looking at the above analysis,

WHY then are old cars imported to Africa?

Standard of living variations. Europe has a high standard of living and can consume very expensive and high class cars while in Africa, because of low standard of living there is low purchasing power and can only consume low, average class cars which are not expensive.

Level of production. In Africa, the car assembly industries are limited and Africa must depend on Europe for these durable goods but because of low income they demand the old cars.

Market. The main advantage for international trade is comparative advantage where countries in the world must exchange what they are best efficient in production for what they are not. This can be compared with the European currency power and since it is high now

European products became expensive in Africa as a whole. With this for Africa to exchange, they prefer old cars so as to get more units at low prices.

Government policies. The African government are reluctant and slow in taking decisions in building up the production capacities of the Car assembling plants. This has only helped increase the level of dependency on European old cars since there is no choice.

Nature of African roads. African roads are mostly narrow and unaccessible to some new models of cars. New European cars are adapted to their roads so when imported into Africa, they get bad within a short period.

Conclusion. From all above, statistics shows that it is important and how rich it is to dealers will remain strong and an effective business. Also, individual feelings shows that Africa needs these goods to better up life due to the cheap prices and its comfortable nature to some. The reluctance and slow nature of African governments in developing the automobile plants remain a strong proof why old cars are imported to Africa. Truly it has bad environmental effects which are dangerous. So for the best for all let these goods be well checked, controlled and new methods of recycling should be implemented to reduce its effects so the world can be a calm place to live presently and in future with less natural disasters.

Should Africa ban/stop[^] second hand goods or cars?

NO

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