**media release**

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**BMW at the 2018 South African Festival of Motoring.**

* South African debut of the BMW M5 Competition heralds creation of a new product category.
* Local premiere for the BMW M2 Competition.

**Midrand, South Africa** – The latest BMW M models will be the main attraction when BMW South Africa takes to the 2018 South African Festival of Motoring (SAFoM) at Kyalami from 31 August to 2 September.

The company’s set up at SAFoM, called the BMW Boulevard, will also draw attention to the progress made in the areas of technological expertise and the innovative vehicle concepts that strengthen BMW’s position as the leading provider of premium cars and mobility services. The emotional impact stems from inspirational design, the driving pleasure for which the brand is renowned, trailblazing technology and a premium character without compromise.

**A new breed of M: The new BMW M5 Competition.**

At the festival, the new BMW M5 Competition will make its local debut. The performance-driving experience that defines the character of the new BMW M5 Competition has a deep emotional richness – and is rooted in the distinctive way its engine goes about its business. The new BMW M5 Competition also signals a new milestone for the company – in future, BMW M GmbH will offer the most powerful variants of its high-performance cars as standalone models.

The 4.4-litre V8 unit with M TwinPower Turbo technology produces maximum output of 460 kW at 6,000 rpm in the BMW M5 Competition Pack. Peak torque is 750 N.m and can be enjoyed across an extremely wide rev range – from 1,800 to 5,800 rpm. The car’s unique power delivery makes its presence felt in reducing the Competition’s 0 to 100 km/h time to 3.3 seconds. Furthermore, 0 – 200 km/h is over in 10.8 seconds – 0.3 seconds quicker than in the standard version of the new M5.

Standard specification for the new BMW M5 Competition includes a model-specific M Sport exhaust system with tailpipe embellishers in black chrome.

The new BMW M5 Competition features a model-specific engine mounting. The engine mounts have modified characteristics and an increased spring rate, and the drive unit’s firmer connection to the vehicle’s structure results in even more direct engine response and immediate transmission of its power to the drivetrain. The car also turns into corners with noticeably greater directness and precision on account of the mounting’s stiffer characteristics.

**Eight-speed M Steptronic transmission and M xDrive.**

The task of relaying the new BMW M5 Competition’s engine power is again handled by the eight-speed M Steptronic transmission. Three different modes offering a choice of efficient, sporty or ultra-dynamic driving can be activated using the Drivelogic rocker switch on the gear selector.

Having made its debut in the standard version of the new BMW M5, the M xDrive all-wheel-drive system now also feeds the further increased power of the BMW M5 Competition onto the road with poise, assurance and thrilling alacrity. It generates just enough extra traction to achieve acceleration times worthy of a super-sports car. The centrally controlled interaction between M xDrive and the Active M Differential is largely responsible for channelling the engine’s remarkable output to the car’s wheels without any loss of power en route. The rear-biased setup of the M xDrive system is another contributory factor in the tremendous agility of the high-performance sedan. Plus, a rear-wheel-drive-only setting (2WD) allows experienced and skilled drivers to revel in the experience offered by past generations of the BMW M5 – i.e. handling in its purest form, with no control systems holding the car back.

**Individually tuned chassis for the ultimate in precision and performance.**

Like every BMW M car, the new BMW M5 Competition is equipped with chassis technology matched perfectly to the performance characteristics of its engine. The associated modifications ensure precisely controllable handling at all times, even in extremely dynamic driving situations. As well as lowering the vehicle by seven millimetres, the model-specific chassis tuning also includes judicious tweaks to the wheel suspension, springs and dampers.

The increased camber at the front axle enhances the car’s ability to absorb lateral forces through high-speed corners. Fitting the toe links with ball joints instead of rubber mounts has resulted in even more precise wheel guidance at the rear axle. And the rear anti-roll bar also has a firmer spring rate. The front axle of the new BMW M5 Competition is equipped with a newly designed mounting for the anti-roll bar. Making the springs at the front and rear axles ten per cent stiffer than on the standard version of the new BMW M5 has produced a firmer ride, which also has a positive impact on steering response. Plus, shorter auxiliary springs reduce fluctuation in wheel loads, as does the unique tuning of the damper hydraulics. Consequently, the direct connection with the chassis can also be clearly felt in Comfort mode. Selecting Sport mode activates the damper settings perfected for testing on the Nürburgring’s Nordschleife circuit, while Sport Plus lends itself to ultra-dynamic driving on grand prix tracks.

Standard specification for the new BMW M5 Competition includes exclusive M light-alloy wheels sporting a Y-spoke design in a bi-colour finish. The 20-inch forged wheels are shod with mixed-size tyres measuring 275/35 R 20 at the front and 285/35 R 20 at the rear.

**Exclusive and highly expressive design features.**

The exclusive feel of the new BMW M5 Competition is further enhanced by a selection of other model-specific design features. BMW Individual high-gloss Shadow Line trim is complemented by the use of discreetly sporty high-gloss black for the kidney grille surround, the decorative mesh of the signature BMW M gills in the front side panels, the trim for the rear bumper covering and the exterior mirror caps. Another special feature are the door openers, which are painted fully in the body colour. The rear spoiler and “M5” boot lid badge – which gains “Competition” lettering – also come in high-gloss black.

Inside the car, an understated stripe design in BMW M GmbH colours for the seat belts, plus floor mats with special piping and “M5” logo, point to the exclusive character of the new BMW M5 Competition. A further identifying feature is the “M Competition” graphic that appears in the instrument cluster to greet the driver when it is starting up.

**Compact high-performance sports car: the new BMW M2 Competition.**

The BMW M2 Competition will also celebrate its South African premiere at the 2018 SAFoM. Developed on the basis of the BMW M2 Coupe with a brief to deliver an emotionally powerful driving experience, this new model from BMW M GmbH sets the pace in the compact high-performance sports car segment courtesy of its 302kW/550N.m engine, bespoke suspension tuning and array of distinctive design signatures. The BMW M2 Competition requires just 4.4 seconds for the sprint from 0 to 100 km/h, dropping to 4.2 seconds if the optional M Double Clutch Transmission with Drivelogic is specified. Top speed is 250km/h (limited), or 280km/h with the optional M Driver’s Package (limited).

The hallmark handling characteristics of BMW M models – headlined by dynamic excellence, agility and precision – is just one reason why the BMW M2 Competition ranks as one of the highlights at SAFoM this year.

**Get yours.**

Special SAFoM offers on various BMW models and BMW lifestyle accessories will be available at the festival from 31 August to 2 September. Visit <http://bmwblvd.co.za/#/home> for more details.

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**The BMW Group**

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world’s leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 31 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2017, the BMW Group sold over 2,463,500 passenger vehicles and more than 164,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2017 was approximately €10.655 billion on revenues amounting to €97.8 billion. As of 31 December 2017, the BMW Group had a workforce of 129,932 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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