

GM gives word on Opel

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General Motors SA (GMSA) reaffirmed yesterday that Opel was an “important part” of the local group.

This was after parent group General Motors (GM) signalled it wanted to sell a controlling stake in European unit Opel-Vauxhall.

It is not clear what this would mean for GM's SA division.

GMSA spokeswoman Denise van Huyssteen said: “Opel continues to occupy an important part of GMSA's future, and is in fact our largest brand in this market.”

Van Huyssteen said GMSA assembled Opel Corsa at its production facility in Port Elizabeth. Components for the Corsa Utility, she said, were sourced primarily from South America, SA, Europe and Asia. GMSA would continue to honour all warranties, service and maintenance plans, parts supply and all other areas of after-sales support for its vehicles, including those models that were no longer sold via its dealerships, Van Huyssteen said.

She said Opel remained a trusted brand that had served the South African motoring public for decades, and it commanded a loyal following.

The Financial Times reported at the weekend that the troubled US car maker GM was preparing to sell a controlling stake in Opel-Vauxhall, keeping a minority stake.

GM, in danger of bankruptcy, was in talks with more than six financial and industrial parties about acquiring a stake in this unit, the paper said.

Source: *Business Day*

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