

BRIEFING TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN FINANCE, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND TOURISM 22 SEPTEMBER 2023



transport

Department:
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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1. Background

- ❑ The Department is cognizant of the critical role of tourism to the country's economy
- ❑ The Department further participates in discussions with the industry and sector departments to assist tourism transport operators
- ❑ The engagements include the meeting that was held on 03 May 2023 and the subsequent letter requesting information from the Department
- ❑ The Department's response letter, dated 23 August 2023 and this presentation highlight some of the key initiatives taken by the Department to address the backlog and challenges experienced by tourist transport operators in the country, including operators in the Western Cape

2. OL update & interventions

2.1 Backlog

- ❑ The reported backlog of 1 014 applications has been considered and cleared by the National Public Transport Regulator (NPTR)
- ❑ The remaining challenge is the slow upliftment of the approved operating licenses by operators
- ❑ The collaborative workshops held with the TBCSA and the industry during March and April 2023 have yielded positive but little results in respect of upliftment of approved operating licenses
- ❑ Some operators have responded and uplifted whilst others have still not uplifted. The remaining approved applications will be cancelled by the NPTR

2. OL update & interventions

2.2 Appointment of a new NPTR Committee

- ❑ On 06 June 2023, the Minister appointed new members of the NPTR Committee.
- ❑ The Committee is comprised of five designated officials of the Department who are appointed on a part-time basis for a period not exceeding 12 months or until the NLT Bill is signed into law
- ❑ The Committee has since commenced with adjudication of applications and holds 2 adjudication meetings per month (2 days each) to minimize delays and ensure that the backlog does not repeat itself

2. OL update & interventions

2.3 National Land Transport Information System (NLTIS) Re-design

- ❑ The Department has appointed a service provider that is in the final stages of redesigning the NLTIS
- ❑ The new system will among other features be web-based enabled and have an sms notifications feature to update operators on the status of their applications in order to further simplify the operating license processes

2. OL update & interventions

2.4 Letters to MEC's regarding Regulation 25

- ❑ On 16 June 2023, the Minister signed letters addressed to MEC's to implore their respective law enforcement officers to correctly implement regulation 25(2) of the National Land Transport Regulations of 2009.
- ❑ The letters seek to interpret the provisions of regulation 25 (2) and ensure that law enforcement officers desist from harassing operators and impounding vehicles whose operators have rightfully applied for renewals

3. Other initiatives

3.1 Consistent adjudication meetings

- ❑ The newly appointed NPTR Committee is committed to consistent adjudication meetings to minimize delays and ensure that applications are finalized within the prescribed timelines in the Act
- ❑ The Department is also working alongside Parliament towards finalizing the National Land Transport Amendment Bill that will enable the appointment of a full-time NPTR Committee

3. Other initiatives

3.2 Simplified processes

- ❑ The Department is finalizing the consultation phase of the National Land Transport Regulation Amendments where gaps in legislation were identified. The amendments will assist in simplifying the operating license processes and procedures
- ❑ The re-design of the NLTIS will further simplify the processes in having an automated system that will improve communication, efficiency and the turnaround times to finalize applications for operating licenses

3. Other initiatives

3.3 Stakeholder engagements

- ❑ The Department is committed to continuous engagements with the industry and other sector departments to improve administrative and regulatory processes in the operating licenses environment
- ❑ On-going engagements with the Presidency's Operation Vulindlela team and industry representatives for an on-site visit to the NPTR offices to improve awareness and a better understanding of the processes

3. Other initiatives

3.4 Raising awareness

In order to raise awareness of the requirements and procedures of the NPTR, the Department proposed in its letter that the Committee may:

- Consider creating a platform in the form of workshops aimed at sharing information
- Consider placing and sharing NPTR documents such as requirements and application forms at its offices/website
- Consider creating a hyperlink of the Department on the Western Cape website to make it easier for operators to access information

4. Conclusion

- ❑ As a sector department with a mandate that supports and enables the growth and development of tourism, the Department of Transport remains committed to the efforts and implementation of the Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan as well as the Tourism Sector Recovery Plan
- ❑ Our continuous engagements and collaborative work with the industry will equip operators with the required knowledge and minimize the submission of incomplete applications and thus improve turnaround times for processing applications

Thank You!

