



SABOA

Southern African Bus Operators Association

voice of the bus & coach industry

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOCUS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT - INEQUITABLE BUS INDUSTRY REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AND UNIFIED WORKING RELATIONS AMID THE COVID-19 CRISIS

SABOA has submitted an official request to the National Department of Transport appealing for urgent assistance for the commuter bus and coach sector. The request addresses interim financial relief, which can be accomplished through the realignment of the Division of Revenue Act (DORA) and the Public Transport Network Grant (PTNG).

The recommendation is that funding from the PTNG be reallocated to the Public Transport Operations Grant (PTOG). The rationale supporting this recommendation is that infrastructure projects will have to be delayed, by at least six months, if not more due to the pandemic. Therefore, the reallocation of funds from the PTNG to the PTOG will enable the department to provide aid to bus operators without having to burden National Treasury for additional funding. It is a solution that Government can pursue if they have the impartial will to do so.

To date the Department of Transport and Minister's focus on public transport has been inequitable. The level of interaction and communication, required from the Department of Transport, for the purposes of aligning the Bus Industries requirements and needs, has to date not received the attention warranted under these desperate circumstances.

SABOA has been in constant contact with the Department of Transport attempting to align the national and local transport requirements and lend support to Government. The Department of Transport has yet to respond to the industries request for assistance.

Who is SABOA?

The Southern African Bus Operators Association represents a wide range of bus and coach operations in South Africa, these being, commuter bus operators, long distance intercity and inter-state services, school bus operators and tour/charter operators. It is recognised as one of the most representative associations in public transport in South Africa.

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