



Southern African Bus Operators Association

The Pivot, Building B, 2nd Floor, Montecasino Boulevard, FOURWAYS, 2055 Postnet Suite 393, Private Bag X033, RIVONIA 2128

Tel: (011) 511 7641 Fax: (011) 511 0007 / (011) 511 1769 Email: saboa@saboa.co.za Website: <http://www.saboa.co.za>

SABOA

03 April 2020

Our Ref: Covid-19 SMME Aid

MEC's FOR TRANSPORT AND EDUCATION PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT'S OF TRANSPORT AND EDUCATION

Dear Sirs / Madam

REQUEST FOR RELIEF AID, SMME'S AND SCHOLAR TRANSPORT OPERATORS

The current protocols and regulations regarding Public Transport during the COVID-19 State of Lockdown refers. SABOA represents the Bus Industry at large and we hereby place on record and draw attention to the following critical issues, affecting bus transport operators and specifically the plight of the SMME and Scholar Transport operators:

1. Since the initial State of Disaster and subsequent National Lockdown the Bus Industry has proactively mobilized to ensure compliance and adherence to the requirements stipulated for Public Transport.
2. Operators have under stressful conditions continued to communicate and provide transport where required and authorized to do so.
3. SABOA has been in constant contact with the National Department of Transport, attempting to align the National and local transport requirements and lend support to Government.

SABOA needs to bring to attention of Provincial Governments, the dire situation that the SMME commuter bus industry is facing due to the Covid-19 virus and the adverse impacts thereof. Operators are mostly dealing with a, total shut down of their operations and do not have the necessary cash flow or reserve funds to see them through this period of lockdown. Many operators may not be able to render commuter services once the lockdown is over. This is of particular concern to school bus operators that have contracts with Provincial Education and/or Transport Departments.

We therefore request your urgent attention by addressing the following requests:

1. *The payment of subsidies, in full, to all scholar transport operators for the period of the lockdown or any extension thereof.*

Motivation: Since the closure of schools due to the lockdown situation, school bus operators have ceased operations. Given the unknown time frames associated with the lockdown and the need to incur labour and fixed costs (bus payments, local authority rates and taxes etc), the impact on cash flow for the SMME is immense. Without interim relief measures instituted, the resultant impact could be dire to the extent of major job losses and closures of many SMME companies.

2. *Establishment of engagement and communications channels.*

Motivation: SABOA operates and communicates via internal structures, set up and operational via Provincial Executive Committees (PEC'S) that are representatives of the Provincial members. We therefore humbly request that the MEC's set up and offer structures for the channelling of communications at Provincial level to facilitate the access to and ongoing consultations for affected operators.

We thank you and await the Departments response and solutions on how the SMME operators within the bus and coach sectors will be assisted by Government. Please contact us should you require further information in this regard.

**KIND REGARDS
BAZIL GOVENDER
SABOA EXECUTIVE MANAGER**

**CC: Directors General – Provincial Governments
HoD's Transport
HOD's Education
MECs Finance
DG- NDoT – Mr Alec Moemi
NDoT – Mr Lesiba Manamela
Ministry of Transport, Minister Fikile Mbalula**