

## **MEDIA STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN BUS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION (SABOA)**

### **SABOA Endorses the Road Traffic Management System**

The Southern African Bus Operators Association has embarked on the initiative to endorse the Road Traffic Management System (RTMS) to improve road safety in the bus industry. This initiative is supported by the Department of Transport and the Road Traffic Management Corporation.

Most notable of this initiative is the introduction of SANS 10399 (South African National Standard – Quality Management Systems: Requirements for Bus Operators), which has given rise to a certification scheme for all bus and coach operators. Daily specific safety checks prescribed by a standardised minimum daily inspection sheet, scheduled maintenance, driver safety refresher courses and extensive route planning are vital components within this initiative. Certification involves adherence to a quality management system which is assessed by an independent certification body and audited on an annual basis.

The standard addresses the quality of the operator's processes as well as the quality of the operator's product. The standard also emphasises the fact the achievement of quality is a management responsibility which requires that a commitment to quality be instilled at all levels within the operator's organisation. This means that each employee retains responsibility for his/her respective processes and products. Most importantly, it plays an essential role in reducing road accidents as it reduces the number of unfit vehicles on the roads.

There is no doubt that SANS 10399 could play a major role in decreasing the number of accidents involving buses. In this regard, SABOA is proud to have played a vital role in its formulation. A central tenet of SABOA's mission relates directly to road safety and it is the hope of all our member operators that initiatives such as SANS 10399 and the Arrive Alive Campaign will continue to make South Africa's roads safer for all users.

ISSUED BY THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN BUS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION

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