



SABOA

Southern African Bus Operators Association

voice of the bus & coach industry

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MEDIA RELEASE

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BUS & COACH INDUSTRY PLEA TO GOVERNMENT FOR AID TO LESSEN THE BLOW OF COVID-19 IMPACT

The bus and coach industry in South Africa are facing a dire future due to the adverse, national and global impact of the Covid-19 virus. Operators are navigating massively scaled down operations and worse, many operations have shut down operations completely as a result of the national lockdown in the country.

The significant concern is that operators, engaged in learner transport, tourism transport, long distance and cross border services, charter, shuttle, coach services and contract services are unable to operate at this time. The industry is faced with a dilemma, like all other businesses in South Africa, of what happens after the country comes out of lockdown?

Bus and coach Operators, particularly SME operators, have now lost their livelihood and their financial ability to provide employment and mobility services, are diminishing daily. The serious plight of SME operators deserves serious consideration and intervention. SABOA has approached Government and requested urgent measures be implemented to assist operators. The stark reality is there may potentially be no school bus services, when schools in South Africa reopen.

The bus and coach industry in South Africa contribute substantially to the country's economy and renders a vital national service. Roughly one hundred and seventy-one thousand citizens are indirectly dependent on the industry. The sector generates an estimated, four hundred and fifty million passenger trips per annum and provides direct employment to roughly thirty-four thousand two hundred people - it is a crucial industry.

If Government does not act with urgency, many operators will find themselves financially cripple and unable to render much needed employment and mobility services in the foreseeable future. SABOA appeals to Government for intervention and aid for the South African bus and coach industry in South Africa.

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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