



MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO ADDRESS FUNDING ISSUES IN THE COMMUTER BUS INDUSTRY

As reported in the September 2013 edition of FaxTalk, the Executive Committee of SABOA has been meeting with government and other stakeholders to address funding issues in the commuter bus industry. The Council of SABOA, at its meeting of 26 September 2013, also approved further steps to be taken by the Executive Committee to address this matter. These steps, inter alia, include meeting with the newly appointed Minister of Transport, the Minister of Finance, civic and commuter organizations as well as investigating the possibility of embarking on a media campaign. The media campaign, if approved, will not be limited to the funding issue but will also cover other important areas such as road safety, the visibility and image of SABOA etc.

Since the Council decision of 26 September 2013, SABOA met with the South African Commuter Organisation (SACO) on 21 October 2013 and had a follow-up meeting with the Portfolio Committee on Transport in Cape Town, during which the Department of Transport responded to the presentation made by SABOA at the previous meeting with the Portfolio Committee on Transport on 30 July 2013.

The recommendation of the Portfolio Committee on Transport is that additional funding be made available to assist commuter bus operators in the interim period as well as to transform the industry. The Portfolio Committee on Transport further recommended that the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Finance should meet to address the financial implications of the recommendations.

SABOA is still continuing its efforts to meet the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Finance. A meeting has also been requested with the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO), the President of which is the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Transport, Ms Bhengu.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Empowerment Committee of SABOA is currently facilitating possible partnerships between established operators and SMME members of SABOA in the Gauteng, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northwest Provinces.

Invitations to SMME's in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northwest were sent in September 2013 to request them to record their interest in a business opportunity in these provinces. Meetings were then held with those SMME's who had recorded their interest. These meetings were held on 23 October 2013 in Middelburg, 29 October 2013 in Polokwane and 30 October 2013 in Klerksdorp, to discuss the way forward.

Members of SABOA are invited to contact the Chairperson of the Empowerment Committee, Mr Daniel Sambo on 082 717 4688 if they are aware of business opportunities within their provinces, which they want the Empowerment Committee to investigate or to discuss any empowerment matter or proposal with the Chairperson of the Empowerment Committee.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

Members are reminded of the two-day SABOA Strategic Planning Workshop which will be held at the Farm Inn Hotel, Silver Lakes, Pretoria on 23 and 24 January 2014.

This is a very important workshop as the aim is to position SABOA and the industry strategically for the challenges of 2014. SABOA has invited the Acting Director-General of the National Department of Transport, Mr Mawethu Vilana, as a guest speaker to assist us in setting the scene for the workshop.

Other important reasons for attending the workshop are:

- To raise and discuss your particular issues of concern.
- To learn about the issues of other members of SABOA.
- To be part of mapping out the way forward for SABOA in 2014.
- To network with operator members of SABOA.
- To network with Associate members of SABOA (suppliers of products and services).
- To obtain a wider perspective and knowledge of industry issues and developments.
- To meet members of other provinces and to build a working relationship with them.
- To socialize with fellow members of SABOA.

Please contact Kathleen of SABOA on (011) 511 7641 to register for the workshop. There are no costs involved for the two-day workshop other than members having to carry their own travel and accommodation costs.

BUS SAFETY CAMPAIGN

The Executive Committee of SABOA, at its meeting of 14 November 2013 accepted the recommendation of the Operations Committee regarding a bus safety campaign. The campaign includes the following:

- To issue a press statement to the effect that the Road Traffic Management System (RTMS) has been endorsed by the SABOA Council.
- To encourage members to re-sign the Road Safety Code of Conduct and to issue a press statement in this regard.
- To issue a press statement on road safety tips for the festive season.

Copies of the press statements issued by SABOA have been mailed and e-mailed to all members. It will also be available on the SABOA website.

CROSS-BORDER ROAD TRANSPORT ACT AND REGULATIONS

Proposed increases in permit fees for cross-border services have been published in government gazette no. 37043 of 19 November 2013. Written comments are invited from interested parties within 30 days from the date of publication in the gazette.

Members are invited to forward their comments to SABOA on or before 13 December 2013.

GAUTENG FREEWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, TOLL ROADS: EXEMPTION FROM THE PAYMENT OF TOLL: CERTAIN PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Government gazette no. 37038 of 19 November 2013 outlines the different services and vehicles that have been exempt from the payment of toll. The tariffs for different classes of motor vehicles have also been published in the gazette.

DTI CODES OF GOOD PRACTICE

The DTI Codes of Good Practice has been published in government gazette no. 36928 of 11 October 2013 and will come into operation within 12 months from the date of publication.

The National Department of Transport has confirmed that the existing sector codes will have to be aligned with the DTI Codes of Good Practice. This process is expected to start in the New Year.

INFORMATION FOR FAXTALK

FAXTALK is an interactive newsletter and we would therefore like to encourage anyone who may have an interesting article or information relating to bus transport within their province to please send it through to Kathleen Cass on saboa@saboa.co.za and it will be included. We would like to send this newsletter at least once a month.

CLOSURE OF SABOA OFFICES FOR THE DECEMBER HOLIDAYS

Please be advised that the SABOA offices will close on Tuesday, 24 December 2013 and will re-open on Thursday, 2 January 2014.

MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS

If your contact details (postal address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address or contact person) have changed, please forward these changes via e-mail to Mrs Rika van Eeden on rika@saboa.co.za or contact her on (011) 511 7641. This will assist us to update our records and keep you, OUR VALUED MEMBERS informed!