



**S A B O A**

Southern African Bus Operators Association

*voice of the bus & coach industry*

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL**

## **2020/2021**



S A B O A

Southern African Bus Operators Association

*voice of the bus & coach industry*

***“The year  
of business unusual”***

# OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

• FOREWORD	3 - 4
• MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION	5 - 8
• ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION	9 - 12
• SABOA SHORT TERM INSURANCE SCHEME	13
• INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS	14 - 15
• STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS	16 - 19
• EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS	20
• WEBSITE AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS	21
• WEBINARS AND ON-LINE CONFERENCES	22
• STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION	23
• COVID-19 UPDATE	24 - 26
• MEMBERSHIP	27
• ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	28
• THANKS AND CONCLUSION	29 - 30

# FOREWORD TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

**SABOA and its various structures have been impacted upon and undergone some radical changes in the year under review – March 2020 to February 2021 - whilst endeavouring to maintain the commitment to the core vision and mission of the Association.**

- The Industry has been severely impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- We place on record our sincere condolences and acknowledgments to all Industry members / non-members and stakeholders that have endured losses of loved ones, employees as well to companies and entities that have closed their doors without any hope of returning to business.
- The various sub-sectors of the Industry have been affected differentially but there has not been any sub-sector that has not suffered greatly during a year of lockdowns, restrictions and a dramatic change in the social imperatives that we have faced - both to date and that we must face going forward.
- We continue to pray and hold fervent hope that the Industry will ride out the worst of the impact and rebuild to stand up as a more resilient and collaborative Sector that seeks to hold its place and continue to contribute substantially to the social and economic development of our country by providing bus and coach services to millions of people who rely on public transport on a daily basis.
- Whilst the COVID-19 impact has been devastating to all sectors of society and business, SABOA has continued to ensure that the impact on the Bus and Coach Industry remains the key narrative in engagements with Government structures and stakeholders. Also, that it forms part of and is included in deliberations towards relief mechanisms where practically possible.
- This has seen the Association actively engage at all tiers of Government and whilst the desired outcomes have not realised the full and required levels of support and relief for the entire Industry there have been small measures of success in some aspects.

# FOREWORD TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

**The Association has endeavoured to deliver on the brand values to remain “informed, committed and driven” and that has been the solid platform for transitioning SABOA through these turbulent times requiring the simultaneous and ongoing management of both change and continuity.**

- The unprecedented events of last year warranted accessibility and engagement with all stakeholders on a non-physical level, whilst maintaining interaction and communication to all on an ongoing basis.
- It also brought about challenges in the Executive Management of SABOA’s affairs given the constitution was designed and written around very traditional manner of Association and Membership interactions.
- The Association itself had to seriously review its long-term sustainability and had to utilize reserves to supplement its day-to-day operations. This also necessitated a restructure of the Secretariat and various PEC support functions to effect cost reduction and long-term savings, whilst striking a balance towards continuity and retention of institutional knowledge.
- Notwithstanding the declining economic conditions that still prevail, the ongoing macro Transport policy uncertainty and constraints on funding, the release of the NHTS 2020, together with the National Department of Transport’s attempt to bring the Taxi Industry into formal discussions and against the ever-deteriorating rail infrastructure and services, the space for the Bus and Coach within the Transport Industry remains crucial and relevant.
- It is therefore critical that the role and influence SABOA plays in representing the Industry remains stable and adds value to all stakeholders.
- For this to be viable and sustainable it is up to members to ensure:
  - That they remain active and contribute to the narrative of issues affecting the Industry
  - That members are more responsive to the call for information
  - That they support the building of a solid data set, with integrity, for SABOA to speak with authority across matters affecting all sectors of the Bus and Coach Industry, be truly representative and attend to transport issues holistically

**During the 2020 / 2021 financial year, SABOA continued to represent the industry on important matters related to the bus industry through meetings, discussions and engagements with stakeholders and bodies involved in the industry.**

# MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

- **SABOA has a permanent Secretariat to manage the affairs of the Association. The Secretariat, comprised six staff members and a strategic advisor, which formed the nucleus coordinating the activities of the Association on behalf of its members.**
- In the context of transitioning the Association to a more digital and pro-active body, significant changes were made to the Secretariat, including the following:
- Mr Bazil Govender was appointed as Executive Manager, replacing Mr Eric Cornelius, who retired at the end of February 2020.
- The position of PA to the Executive Manager was not replaced after the resignation of the incumbent in February 2020.
- Professor Jackie Walters' tenure as Strategic Advisor was revised by mutual agreement, from permanent member of Secretariat, to Strategic Advisor on retainer to SABOA.
- A section 189 process was effected in October 2020 through to February 2021, resulting in the termination of the following positions after due consultation and processes:
  - General Worker – November 2020
  - Support Services Officer – November 2020
  - Marketing and PRO – February 2021
- In line with the directives of the Strategic Planning Session of January 2020, SABOA also effected a change of domicile of the offices from PIVOT Building, Monte Casino Complex to Indwe Risk Services complex in Houghton Estate Johannesburg. This led to further reduction and cost savings.
- The core Secretariat that completed the financial year was the Executive Manager, the Financial Administrator / Bookkeeper, the PA/ Receptionist and the Strategic Advisor.

# SABOA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- The SABOA EXCO was elected in 2017 to serve a term of four years to 2021, also experienced some changes due to resignations and passing away of members elected to the EXCO.
- The table below reflects the original EXCO as elected in 2017:

Category A Members		Category B Members		President / Vice President
Mr Suveer Maharaj	Maphumulo Mail Service	Mr Andrew Sefala	Ipelegeng Transport Trust	
Ms Imogene Mncwango	Gauteng Women in Transport	Mr Francois Meyer	Golden Arrow Bus Services	
Mr Julius Vanqa	Vaal Maseru Bus Service	Mr Thys Heyns	PUTCO	
Mr Sidwell Nche	City Transportation Service	Mr Bennett Ditshego	NTI	
PRESIDENT TERM ONE				Mr Andrew Sefala
PRESIDENT TERM TWO				Mr Suveer Maharaj

- Mr Sefala resigned in 2019, and Presidency moved to Mr Maharaj.
- Mr Ditshego resigned in 2020 and was not replaced.
- Mr Vanqa passed away in 2020 and was not replaced.
- Elections for the new Council and EXCO, together with appointments of the President and Vice President will be done on completion of term of office in 2021.

# SABOA COUNCIL

## Council Members Category A

S Maharaj	Maphumulo Mail Service (VP)	N Dollie	Overland Tours
M D Sambo	Sambo Express	T Lebitsa	Hlakanang Bus Company
J Vanqa	Vaal Maseru Bus Service	C Bailey	Bailey's Bus Service
J Mayegiso	Mayegiso Bus Service	D I Ngcobo	Ngotshana Transport
R S Nche	City Road Trans Service	I Mncwango	Gauteng Women in Transport

## Council Members Category B

A Sefala	Ipelegeng Transport Trust	D Masango	Thembaletu Bus Service
B Ditshego	NTI	D Gwabeni	Mayebuye Transport Corporation
M H Heyns	Putco	C Ramathe	Maluti Transport
F E Meyer	Golden Arrow Bus Service	E Motshwane	Piotrans
T Murugan	South Coast Bus Service	F Morelli	Unitrans Passenger

## Associate Member Representatives

R Karshagen	Iveco
K Bell	Standard Bank Vehicle Asset & Finance



# SABOA EXCO/COUNCIL MEETINGS 2019/20

The schedule of SABOA EXCO and COUNCIL Meetings were impacted upon with the onset of COVID-19 and the related lockdown regulations and restrictions. Some meetings were moved and / or cancelled in the transition to a digital meeting environment and whilst the uncertainty of physical interactions were prevalent.

The table below reflects the meeting that were held in the year:

MEETING TYPE	DATE OF MEETING
EXCO MEETING	26 March 2020 (Cancelled)
EXCO COUNCIL MEETING	21 MAY 2020 (Cancelled)
EXCO MEETING	02 JULY 2020 (VIRTUAL MEETING)
EXCO COUNCIL MEETING	30 JULY 2020 (Postponed)
EXCO MEETING	24 AUGUST 2020 (VIRTUAL MEETING)
EXCO COUNCIL MEETING	02 SEPTEMBER 2020 (VIRTUAL MEETING)
AGM	02 SEPTEMBER 2020 (VIRTUAL MEETING)
EXCO MEETING	29 OCTOBER 2020 (VIRTUAL MEETING)
EXCO MEETING	19 NOVEMBER 2020 (VIRTUAL MEETING)
STRATEGIC PLANNING REVIEW / COUNCIL MEETING	27 JANUARY 2021 (VIRTUAL MEETING)

# ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

- SABOA has through the years been active in various policy and legislative discussions and engagements. Amongst these are-
  - Review of The White Paper on National Transport Policy
  - National Learner Transport Policy
  - National Land Transport Act
  - Bus Commuter Contract System
  - Legal Opinion on Negotiated Contracts
  - National Public Transport Safety Plan
  - Road Transport Management System
  - Taxi Intimidation
  - Competition Commission Market Inquiry into Public Transport
  - Development of A Public Transport Subsidy Policy
  - AARTO

# ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

- **COMPETITION COMMISSION INQUIRY:**
  - The Competition Commission announced an inquiry into public passenger transport on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2017.
  - **SABOA** made submissions in September 2017 and presented the same at the hearings in July 2018.
  - The provisional report was published on 19 February 2021 and SABOA made further extensive written comments and submissions.
  - The report was launched in 2021 and is available together with all comments and submissions on the SABOA website.

# POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS

- **PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUBSIDY POLICY:**

- **The Department of Transport, under the Directorate for Public Transport Subsidy,** through the Consultants **Future of Transport** have developed a Draft Public Transport Subsidy Policy.
- The Policy is premised on a principle of USER SIDE SUBSIDY and incorporates changes to the current fare collection and ticketing processes.
- The process is unfolding to wide ranging engagements with all stakeholders.
- A part of the process SABOA has submitted detailed responses and input to the draft policy document and awaits further engagement once the final draft document is tabled.

- **Development of a ABT Integrated Fare Collection and Ticketing Policy**

- **The Department of Transport,** under the Directorate for Integrated Transport, is in collaboration with SANRAL and consultants, proposing introducing Account Based Ticketing through integrated Fare Collection Systems.
- Presentations were done in November 2020 and February 2021, ahead of the Gazette being published in March 2021.

- SABOA has obtained comments from Industry wide stakeholders and continues to engage the NDoT on these two policies.

- All documents pertaining to these policies as well as records of discussion are available on the SABOA website.

# POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND ENGAGEMENTS

- **AARTO LEGISLATION:**

- **SABOA** supports all initiatives relating to improved Road Safety and reduction of accidents and incidents.
- However, the proposed AARTO legislative framework had many onerous sub regulations that have major impact for the Industry.
- SABOA then undertook an industry survey and whilst the response was poor (only 24 responses obtained), it was clear that the Industry at large is still not prepared for the implementation of AARTO.
- The full AARTO legislation links and the submissions and reports from SABOA are also available on the website.
- The results of the survey are also available on request.

- **The industry awaits feedback from the RTMC with regards to the inputs and proposals submitted and members will be updated accordingly.**

# ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

## • SABOA Short-Term Insurance Scheme

- This initiative resulted in the appointment of a multi-party panel of service providers which included Ibiti Underwriting Managers, Mobility Insurance Underwriters, SHA and Guardrisk as Insurers and Indwe Risk Managers together with K3 Brokers, as the approved Brokers.
- The new scheme was envisaged to become operational on **01 April 2020** but due to the National Lockdowns as a result of COVID-19 from late March onwards, was only finally concluded during September 2020, with 5 parties having signed agreements and SHA having to defer to January 2021.
- The complexities of the multi-panel process emerged in the midst of growing uncertainty around the impacts of COVID-19.
- One of the key difficulties was managing the individual claim to Intellectual Property from partners whilst seeking to remain compliant of the FSCA regulatory framework and still developing a holistic product and service offering for members and the Industry.
- This then impacted on the projected and budgeted revenue streams of the Association placing further strain on the sustainability going forward.
- After due deliberation, the approval was granted for the dissolution of the Scheme and to pursue other business models for the Insurance offering.
- SABOA negotiated a mutual termination with all partners in the month of February 2020.
- We wish to place on record our sincere gratitude to the Associate partners, for their understanding and support in the process.

# INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS

- **SANSBOC – South African National Small Bus Operators Council**
  - SABOA continues to remain active and available to engaging with the National Leadership of SANSBOC, who have been in discussions at a National level as opposed to GASBOC at Provincial level. This has progressed to a draft MoU under review for signature.
- **CBBASA – Cross Border Bus Association of South Africa**
  - This entity was formalised under stewardship and guidance of SABOA.
  - With the closure of Greyhound, the original MoU had to be revised and re-engaged going forward.
  - The revised MoU seeks to continue a collaborative approach (amongst operators) towards addressing cross-border issues with the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA).
  - In addition, a MOU was concluded between the CBBASA and the C-BRTA. This seeks to ensure accountability by the C-BRTA to diligently deal with the issues and concerns of the cross-border bus and coach sector.
  - SABOA through its commitment and efforts has been nominated and elected to chair the CBBASA structure through the transition phase of the first year.

# INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS

- **TBCSA – Tourism Business Council of South Africa**
  - **SABOA remains an active participant within this Association, engaging on ways to improve the plight of the Tour Charter operators within the Tourism space.**
  - **Of particular importance here has been the issue of the License costs payable by operators who have not operated for well over a year placing pressure on their ability to start up operations again once restrictions are uplifted.**
- **NTSF – National Tourism Stakeholder Forum**
  - **SABOA continues to attend and contribute the discussions around the National Tourism agenda from a Bus and Coach perspective**
- **NPTR – National Public Transport Regulator**
  - **Through both these structures above and of recent through interactions with the Directorate of Regulations at the NDoT, SABOA has been able to get confirmation of meetings to discuss long standing issues relating to accreditation of Tour Transport operators and the challenges around the Provincial Regulatory Entities (PRE's)**
  - **The Association will continue to pursue the issues towards progress for the industry.**



# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

- **Technical Committee Meetings**
  - During 2020 the SABOA Technical Committee had to revert to on line meetings due to the COVID-19 restrictions, under the guidance and Chairmanship of Mr Gideon Neethling.
  - These engagements were open to all interested members, but attendance has waned through this period.
  - Notwithstanding, the meetings deliberated on key issues such as:
    - NRCS Regulations
    - Safer Vehicles 2025 Project
    - Double payment of Levies by OEM's and Body Builders
    - Homologation and Seating Capacity
    - AARTO
    - Alternative Energy Vehicles (including electric buses)
- **Meetings were held on the listed dates:**
  - 20 February 2020 hosted by ZF SERVICES, in Germiston
  - 23 July 2020 hosted on-line
  - 24 November 2020 hosted on line
- The Secretariat together with representatives from the SABOA Technical Committee are part of forum in ongoing engagements with the NRCS and SABS, where technical, specification and regulatory matters are discussed and addressed on behalf of the membership.

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- **Operations Committee Meetings**
  - **Operations Meetings were held under Chairmanship of Mr Braam De Jong, on the dates below:**
    - 12 February 2020 at SABOA offices in Fourways
    - 10 September 2020 on-line
    - 25 November 2020 on-line
    - 10 February 2021 on-line
  - **The following matters were handled at the Operations Committee meetings:**
    - Stakeholder engagement: Department of Transport's Public Transport Safety Plan
    - Driver Training Academy
    - Operations Committee Terms of Reference
    - DoT/SABOA Task team
    - AARTO
    - Amendments to the NLTA
    - BRT Operations
    - RTMS/PBS
    - COVID – 19 Impact

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- **PEC Structures and Meetings:**
  - Over the years these Committees have also become smaller and to an extent non-functional.
  - Functional PEC Structures were also impacted by COVID-19 in the last year.
  - Only KZN managed to hold the full calendar of meetings during the year.
  - All terms of office for PEC Structures and office bearers end in 2021 and elections will be held to bring in new Structures for term 2021 – 2025.
  
- **Bus Indabas**
  - In line with the decision to comply to restrictions all Bus Indabas were put on hold and will be reviewed ongoing to a point where it is safe and practical to resume this important engagement at Provincial level.

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS (SUMMARY)

## • Engagement with External Stakeholders

- During the year under review, SABOA held various engagements with the following external stakeholders.

- Minister of Transport
- MEC's for Transport
- National Department of Transport
- National Department of Tourism
- Department of Home Affairs
- Provincial Departments of Transport
- National Treasury
- Provincial Regulatory Entities
- Road Traffic Management Corporation
- Tourism Business Council of South Africa
- SAPS
- Statistics South Africa
- Competition Commission

- SARPBAC
- NEDLAC
- MEDIA
- SANSBOC
- CBOA
- C-BRTA
- RFA
- TRANSPORT FORUM

# EVENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

- **SABOA Annual Conference and Exhibition**
  - The impact of COVID-19 and the various restrictions warranted that all planning and arrangements regarding hosting the 2020 SABOA Annual Conference, Exhibition and Gala Dinner were put on hold.
  - A change of venue from the CSIR to the Ticketpro Dome was approved, subject to final project plans being submitted. However, this was postponed due to COVID-19.
- The other major impact of the COVID-19 restrictions was the need to switch the SABOA Secretariat operations to remote working. This impacted initially, due to connectivity and resources of some Secretariat staff but eventually settled into a transition of remote based operations.
- **SABOA Talk Newsletter**
  - The SABOA newsletter, SABOA Talk, provides a monthly update on the activities of the Association. The newsletter is electronically distributed to all members monthly.

# WEBSITE AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

- **SABOA Website**
  - The website is being upgraded and modernised on a phased basis.
  - This is necessary due to the limited scope of the original website design which limits full interaction and cannot process menu driven real time processing.
  - There is also limited fall over protection which restricts the volume of information that can be stored and kept on the website.
  - However, we regularly update the relevant information and are in the final phase of the redesigned, more expansive settings and tab set out.
- **Digital Communications:**
  - The forced transition due to COVID-19 has seen more regular use of the Social media platforms of Facebook and Twitter.
  - To improve ease of communications the SABOA membership data base was categorised to segments:
    - Provincial / Category A and B / Associate / PEC and Non-Members to facilitate bulk and group communications via Whats App and e mail.
  - The SABOA Whats App Group platform allows for all members to be connected and updated at all times.

# WEBINARS AND ON-LINE EVENTS

- **Transport Forum SIG Collaboration**
  - Owing to the need to remain active and keep key narratives alive, SABOA used the close working relationship with Transport Forum to become an Industry Alliance Member.
  - This allows the Association to get preference in the planning and hosting of on-line events and virtual webinars.
- **Calendar of Events: In the year under review, SABOA,**
  - **Participated in the following on-line events:**
    - SATC Webinar Presentation – 07 October 2020
    - Transport Forum – Impact of COVID-19 – 04 June 2020
    - Transport Forum – A Post COVID-19 Approach – 06 August 2020
    - Chaired a plenary discussion at the event on Public Transport Challenges – October 2020
  - **Hosted the following events:**
    - Cross Border Sectoral Challenges – January 2021
  - The events hosted have increased in the 2021 financial year.

# ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING

## • ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING

- The strategic plan agreed at the strategic planning session of 30 and 31 January 2020, was reviewed on 27 January 2021.
- This was again a strategic inward review given the impact of COVID-19 and the impact on the Associations cash flow and sustainability.
- Key issues focussed on were SABOA **finances**, the SABOA **insurance scheme**, SABOA **office accommodation**.
- Several resolutions were taken and adopted by Council following the planning session and the key items are summarised as follows:
  - **SABOA finances:** SABOA will utilise reserves to sustain the operations until stability is achieved. Cost cutting measures implemented were endorsed i.e. Section 189 processes executed and implemented.
  - **Insurance scheme:** The dissolution of the current Scheme and explore a revised sustainable agreement and scheme.
  - **Office accommodation:** Endorsed the office relocation to Central Street, in Houghton Estate and signing of a 12-month renewable office rental agreement with INDWE RISK SERVICES.
  - **Annual conference and exhibition:** to investigate alternative venues for the conference, refreshing the conference characteristics, regional conferences and to consider a driver of the year competition subject to developments within the COVID-19 environment.



# COVID-19 UPDATE AND SUMMARY

## • **COVID-19 RELIEF:**

- Since the implementation of the State of Disaster SABOA has been actively engaging and following up with the Government iro the impact and relief options for the Industry.
- SABOA commissioned a detailed cost exercise from members and operators to determine a quantum of costs associated with covid-19 Protocols and compliance.
- The industry benchmarking exercise and model determined an across the board average cost of implementation of measures for compliance at R 4 676 per bus per month. The initial projections done by SABOA indicated an industry wide total cost of around R 102 million per month.
- The industry then presented the views to the Minister of Transport, at a high level meeting, on-line on 29 MAY 2020.
- At the request of the Industry and on behest of the Minister there was an Industry TASK TEAM set up to review and explore solutions to the critical issues emanating from COVID-19 impact.
- Flowing from that there was a reappropriation of the PTOG with a 5% set aside for COVID relief in the form of PPE provision, but this was incorporated to road based transport in total and was left to the discretion of Provincial authorities to apply relief as they deemed appropriate.
- The progress has been slow as the NDoT representatives on the Task Team often had to seek mandate from the DG or defer the process to Provincial level.
- SABOA then initiated direct communications with all provincial departments of Transport and the response have been varied across provinces.
- Gauteng Province has been most receptive to engagements around relief since discussions commenced in June 2020.
- The industry model was accepted and developed further by the CSIR on behalf of Gauteng.
- The protracted process of agreement has eventually resulted in Gauteng agreeing to compensate operators direct costs incurred in the provision of PPE related compliance. This is backdated to 01 July 2020 and remains in effect for as long as the State of Disaster is enacted and operators are expected to provide the invoice and supporting documentation with claim for compensation.

# COVID-19 UPDATE AND SUMMARY

## • **LICENCE ARREARS AND PENALTIES:**

- Since the imposition of Lockdown Level 5 in March 2020 and with the gazette of the regulations around July 2020, many operators have faced huge difficulties with expired licenses, as well as arrears and penalties.
- This has resulted in many operators not being in a position to afford paying for expired licenses in total.
- SABOA raised the issue at TASK TEAM level using specific members as examples of impact.
- Correspondence was also sent to the Director General and Ministers offices.
- Once again SABOA had to revert to dealing directly with the Provincial authorities on this matter.
- Together with SABOA Western Cape, progress has been made with the Western Cape authorities agreeing to waive all penalties on a vetted application process.
- No other provincial authority has yet agreed to this process but the matter is being pursued.

# COVID-19 UPDATE AND SUMMARY

- **NEDLAC: National Economic Development and Labour Council**
- SABOA was invited under the framework of B4SA (Business for South Africa) to participate in the NEDLAC consultations and engagements within the Rapid Response Transport Sub Committee.
- This sub committee was tasked with framing response to and also commenting on the various COVID-19 regulations.
- Through this forum, SABOA was directly involved in the following:
  - The submission of the industry model for the costs of COVID-9 compliance for inclusion in submission to Government and the Minister of Transport.
  - Curfews and Public Transport Operating Hours
  - Direction on Public Transport
  - Making Public Transport Safe
  - Driver and Vehicle Licence Regulations
  - Employer Arranged Transport - Businesses operating flexible working hours
  - Peak Spreading
  - Inter Modal Intimidation
  - Relief for Operators
- SABOA also submitted comments on the Taxi Lekgotla via the consolidated report of B4SA.
- The NEDLAC Forum has not met since January 2021 on transport related issues.

# MEMBERSHIP STATUS

## • MEMBERSHIP

- SABOA membership has been under pressure over the last few years and the last year has seen a drop in paid-up membership fees.
- The membership profile at the start of the 2020 financial year was: 430 members
  - Principal members : 387 and Associate members: 43
- The membership profile at the end of the 2020 financial year was: 430 members
  - Principal members : 382 and Associate members: 48
- The principal Membership splits at end February 2021:
  - Category A = 348 and Category B = 34

Province	Total Members	Province	Total Members
Northern Cape	1	Western Cape	54
Limpopo	9	Kwa-Zulu Natal	59
Free State	15	North West	87
Eastern Cape	21	Gauteng	97
Mpumalanga	32		

# ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## • AUDITOR REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- The Annual Financial Statements, which were audited and reported on by Mr Louis Crafford, who was appointed as the auditor of the Association, have been approved by the Executive Committee and Council and is available upon request for members of SABOA.
- The audit findings reflect that:
  - The provision of the Constitution of the Association relating to the financial affairs, for the year under review, have been complied with.
  - It is a fair representation of the financial standing of the Association in respect of the IFRS and the Companies Act.
  - The copy of the report is available on request and will be uploaded to the website.

# THANKS

- On behalf of members, the EXCO and COUNCIL, I hereby extend appreciation to all the stakeholders within the Government Departments and the various tiers of government for their support and assistance to the Industry as well as for the ongoing engagements. Here, special mention and acknowledgement goes to Mr Lesiba Manamela and Mr Tshifhiwa Mudzielwana at the NDoT, The Gauteng Provincial Department and the Western Cape Provincial Department.
- On behalf of SABOA and its Members, Secretariat wishes to thank the **President of the Association, Mr Suveer Maharaj as well as the Chairpersons of the SABOA Provincial Branches (PEC's) for representing SABOA at various forums throughout the year.**
- **A special word of appreciation is also addressed to the National Council and National Executive Committee of SABOA** who are always willing to participate in committees, meetings, and workshops, and for their guidance and leadership over the past 4 years.
- **We also wish to thank the Associate Members for their loyal support over the years.** Their support stretches much wider than providing sponsorships for events such as the SABOA conference. **They also provide a great deal of expertise to the Association through their participation in the SABOA Council, Technical Committee, meetings, and workshops** as well as forming an important link in the public transport supply chain. This process has since the onset of COVID-19, extended to a formal Associate Members Forum that holds planned and structured meetings.
- **Finally, we would like to thank all our Principal and Operating members for their continued support and inputs into the Association, during a year that has indeed been the most difficult in the history of the Industry and the Association.**

# FINAL WORD

- As we welcome in the new leadership of SABOA, we congratulate the newly elected COUNCIL and the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and reiterate that in order to remain relevant, vibrant and continue to serve the interests of members and stakeholders the Association needs committed and accountable leadership, prepared to tackle the difficult and often competing ideological issues, with decisiveness.
- The current landscape of macro-economic and policy uncertainty, coupled with the potential long term impacts of the pandemic requires agile contribution from the Secretariat, the Council and EXCO as well as the Provincial Executive Structures.
- We will strive to forge and cement relationships with the various governmental structures as a priority given the changes in personnel at the Provincial and municipal levels together with all out stakeholders.
- The Association has reached a milestone moment and members should be congratulated for the renewed approach in that we have now resurrected structures and representation in all provinces. This has now created a solid basis for multi-level engagements and representation for the industry.
- I would be remiss not to acknowledge the newly elected EXCO COUNCIL AND EXCO TEAM to serve for the period 2021 – 2025. We will announce the anticipated appointment of the incoming President, in due course.
- And with I conclude the Annual report and thank you from the SABOA Secretariat Team.