



SABOA

Southern African Bus Operators Association

voice of the bus & coach industry

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SABOA UPDATE

30 APRIL 2020 / 05

Since the state of emergency announced 19 March 2020, Saboa has taken various actions to raise awareness on the challenges faced by the industry and keep our members and the industry updated and informed. It is a journey with its own challenges and frustrations, yet we are all discovering creative ways of working and living. As an organization this is just some of what we have been doing to keep the wheels turning so to speak:

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

- SABOA met with the DOT to discuss the bus industry's contribution towards dealing with the crisis and provided support to the Gauteng Disaster Centre via its Provincial Branch.
- Ongoing contact is being maintained with the DOT via Mr. Lesiba Manamela to raise industry issues and request clarification on government expectations of the industry, during lockdown.
- A survey of industry needs was conducted amongst bus and coach operators, on behalf on the DOT. The feedback that SABOA received was collated and submitted to the DOT on the 1st April 2020 and updates were provided to the DOT in the ensuing week.
- Two letters, highlighting the plight of SMME's and the commuter industry was sent to the Minister, National Department and Provincial Heads with a request for industry assistance.
- As always response and action from the DOT is lacking, however we will continue regardless.

HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

- Representatives of SABOA participated in an online video meeting on Sunday 26 April 2020, with the Minister of Transport, Deputy Minister of Transport, Director General DoT and other department representatives.
- Submissions relating to alert Level 4, was made to the Minister and the DoT, for consideration and implementation when Level 4 come into effect on Friday 01 MAY 2020.

SABOA RECOMMENDATIONS TO OPERATORS

- Operators have been advised to contact their contracting authorities in order to gain clarification as to what was expected of the operators. Each province had its own requirements and arrangements with operators.

- SMME operators were encouraged to engage the government directly in order to be considered for SMME relief via the SMME Debt Relief Finance Scheme. SMME's were also directed to approach the UIF Fund for assistance.

SARPBAC & TERS

- SABOA has facilitated communication on behalf of SARPBAC to operators. It must be acknowledged that SARPBAC is generously assisting all operators, irrespective of their membership status, to submit TERS claims to UIF.

DEBT RELIEF OPTIONS

- SABOA has shared a summary of Debt Relief Options available to businesses and individuals.

PRESS RELEASES

- To date, SABOA has issued three press releases. The press releases have been shared with members and uploaded onto the Saboa website for reference.

INTERVIEWS

- Two television interviews were given by Bazil Govender on the 20 March 2020.

SABOA WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

- The SABOA website is updated regularly with relevant COVID-19 and industry updates.
- Social media platforms are also being used to raised awareness.

WHAT'S YOUR POST LOCKDOWN PLAN?

- Do you have a post lockdown plan? We encourage all organizations to consider their post lockdown plans and implement operational strategies to enable integration into a new normal. We encourage you to be proactive and business ready for the eventualities to come.
- Refer to the communications sent out on Wednesday 29 April 2020, for Workplace Preparedness and Risk Assessments.
- SABOA will engage the applicable Industry sub sector as the restrictions are eased, allowing for more operators to resume operations. This will start with SCHOOL BUS OPERATORS once the relevant briefings and announcements are released.
- As the alternate risk adjusted levels emerge for discussions, all members are urged to provide comments on the proposed regulations, which will be submitted to the authorities for consideration.

DATABASE UPDATE

- SABOA will be using this time to update our database and request your assistance. Over the next few days Cynthia and Precious will be calling and emailing you to verify your contact and operations details. We therefore ask that you please assist them in their efforts.

WHATSAPP COMMUNICATIONS

- SABOA is using WhatsApp to broadcast updates and information. We believe this will be beneficial to our members on the go. This is an opt in service, therefore if you are interested in receiving our communications via WhatsApp follow these 2 easy steps:

- ✓ *STEP ONE*

Save the SABOA cellular number 078 8800 015 as a contact on your cell phone

- ✓ *STEP TWO*

SMS your full name & cell phone number to 078 8800 015 so that we can add you to our WhatsApp community

- Organisations who are not receiving the updates and wish to do so may contact us through any of the channels provided.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

- Do you have any recommendations or suggestions you would like to share? Please feel free to do so via any of the listed channels listed below.

HOW TO REACH US

- E-Mail : saboa@saboa.co.za
- Call : 087 8800 015
- What's App : 078 8800 015
- Direct : Basil Govender bazil@saboa.co.za
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