

TRANSCENDING BORDERS

The official Publication of the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency
June 2024



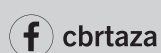
The C-BRTA sets its sights on Transport Evolution West Africa Conference

VISION

Leading passenger and freight cross-border land transport regulator, connecting the African continent.

MISSION

To drive an integrated African continent through excellence in cross-border road transport regulation, law enforcement, advisory and facilitation of unimpeded flow of goods and people



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From the CEO'S Desk



Dear Readers,

Let me greet and welcome you to this edition of **Transcending Borders**, the C-BRTA's external publication. **Transcending Borders** is our Agency's external communication tool whose primary purpose is to keep the cross-border operators and the industry at large informed about pertinent issues that affect the industry

We are releasing this publication during the first quarter of our financial year, which is a critical period for our operations as an Agency. This period is critical because we use it to outline our programme of action for the year and the implementation thereof.

All the programmes and initiatives that we have planned for the year are geared towards assisting the Agency to continue implementing its mandate of championing and facilitating the smooth flow of passengers and goods across borders. This is done with the primary purpose of driving trade amongst various countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. This work is mainly centred on extensive and regular stakeholder engagements both domestically and internationally intention to harmonise various laws and regulations, thereby creating a conducive environment to allow the smooth flow of passengers, goods and services on the continent.

For example, a delegation from our Agency recently visited Accra in Ghana to participate and present a paper at the Transport Evolution West Africa Conference which was convened to allow various transport experts from across the continent to discuss transportation matters.

Around the same period, another delegation from the C-BRTA travelled to Russia to provide support to the Minister of Transport at the BRICS Ministers Transport Meeting and the ST. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF). Our role at these important gatherings was to profile the work that we do as the C-BRTA and the transport industry in general.

Furthermore, a team representing the C-BRTA in partnership with the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) also visited Groblersbride Border Post which connects South Africa and Botswana through Limpopo Province. The purpose of the visit to the port of entry was to assess the feasibility of developing a truck and to engage port officials to determine how the development of such a truck stop would affect the daily operations at the port.

These are some of the activities that we have been busy with over the past three months, and we will continue conducting our work of engaging various stakeholders on the continent as part of our mandate of championing the free-flow of passengers, goods and services on the continent.

Please page through the publication to read more about these stories.

Regards,

Lwazi Mboyi
CEO: Cross-Border Road Transport Agency

The C-BRTA sets its sights on Transport Evolution West Africa Conference to promote its role in the industry



As part of its mandate of championing the movement of passengers and goods across the borders, the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) regularly identify and attend transport related platforms to profile and promote the Agency's work. This way, the C-BRTA is able to reach various transport authorities and stakeholders on the continent to discuss matters pertaining to the cross-border road transport industry and trade issues on the continent.

It is for this reason that a delegation led by Mr. Sibulele Dyodo, Executive Manager: Facilitation and Advisory attended the Transport Evolution West Africa Conference from 5 - 7 June 2024 at the Accra International Conference Centre in Ghana. The theme for this year's conference was *Unlocking West Africa's Potential*. The conference aimed to revolutionize the transport industry in the region by providing a platform for innovation, collaboration and expertise. The event was attended by government officials, investors and transport authorities who took part in the programme which entailed workshops and an exhibition. The conference provided a comprehensive overview of the latest developments and trends in the transport and logistics industry. Attendees had an opportunity to explore an exhibition zone which showcased the latest advancements in transport solutions.

In his presentation titled *Initiatives to Enhance the Seamless movement of Freight in the Broader Region*, Mr. Dyodo shared insights on the existing infrastructure challenges in the region

and how they obstruct the seamless movement of trade across borders and are partly to blame for the low level of intra-Africa trade. Over the years, border posts have emerged as one of the biggest impediments to intra-Africa trade and travel. In addition, Inland borders are affected by a plethora of challenges which impede seamless trade flows.

The presentation also highlighted issues relating to the following topics:

- The establishment of one-stop borders (OSPB).
- Establishment of Formal Truck Stops: Africa is experiencing a road safety crisis and has the highest per capita rate of road fatalities in the world. The establishment of truck stops along transport corridors will assist in improving road safety in Africa.
- Risk-based systems: These seek to improve the regulatory environment through enhancing regulatory efficiency, operator compliance and road safety. Furthermore, these systems seek to reward compliant traders and transporters through subjecting them to fewer inspections along transport corridors and faster clearance processes at border posts.

For instance, the AEO-OCAS is an example of a risk-based system currently being implemented in the SADC region. Operator Compliance Accreditation System (OCAS) is driven by the C-BRTA, while Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) is driven by the South African Revenue Service (SARS).



Meanwhile, as part of the C-BRTA's visit to Accra, Ghana, Ms. Helene Botha, Senior Research Specialist, participated in a separate engagement, an African Union (AU) Technical Workshop on road transport regulatory instruments for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The AU workshop aimed to enhance the overall efficiency of road transport in Africa through the adoption of harmonised road transport policies, regulations, standards and systems across the Continent.

As part of the workshop programme, Ms. Botha presented on *the C-BRTA's Role and Experience in the Harmonisation and Implementation of Cross-Border Road Transport Regulatory Instruments*. Specific emphasis was placed on the C-BRTA initiatives that support the regional harmonisation agenda, notably the Operator Compliance Accreditation System

(OCAS), the Cross-Easy Permit Management System and deployment of a SMART law enforcement vehicle along regional road transport corridors.

Furthermore, as part of the presentation, Ms. Botha indicated that the C-BRTA supports the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (TTTFP), including the harmonisation of road transport regulatory instruments that will be accomplished through the Multilateral Cross-Border Road Transport Agreement (MCBRTA). The MCBRTA outlines a harmonised regulatory framework for the three Regional Economic Communities (RECs) -Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). At national level, the C-BRTA is leading the domestication of the TTTFP through OCAS that will implement the MCBRTA in South Africa in future.

C-BRTA & LEDA

visit Grobler's Bridge Border Post



The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA), in partnership with, the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) visited the Groblersbridge Border Post as part of the C-BRTA's ongoing work of forming partnerships with stakeholders to bring about efficiencies in the cross-border road transport industry. It is for this reason that on 06 June 2024, a delegation from the C-BRTA and LEDA visited the Groblersbridge Border Post. The purpose of the visit was to assess the feasibility of developing a truck stop as well as to engage port officials to determine how the development of a truck stop would affect the daily operations at the port.

The two Agencies signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13 March 2024. The purpose of the MoU is to set out how the C-BRTA and LEDA agree to cooperate and

collaborate on issues relating to public transport infrastructure development, management and maintenance to improve cross-border flow of commuters in South Africa.

The C-BRTA holds a view that one of the key factors to remove barriers of regional integration is to ease movement through the border post. It is for this reason, that the two Agencies, identified the development of a truck stop at the Groblersbridge Border Post as a solution to ease traffic congestion.

Further stakeholder engagement inclusive of the Limpopo Municipality and the Department of Public Works (DPW) and other relevant stakeholders in the cross-border road transport industry is expected to take place in the near future.

CONTINENTAL TRADE & TRANSPORT CONFERENCE

30 JUL - 1 AUG 2024 
CAPITAL ON THE PARK, SANDTON, SOUTH AFRICA





Cross-Border

Trade & Transport

Information Platform

The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency [C-BRTA] has recently launched a cross-border trade and transport information platform that houses valuable information on cross-border road transport, cross-border trade, state of corridors, condition of border posts and market opportunities that exist in the Southern African Development Community [SADC].

A phased development approach was adopted, which imply that the cross-border trade and transport information platform will be expanded over time to integrate with other national systems/database sets. Upon completion, the platform will store and disseminate information in real-time on cross-border trade and traffic movements along regional transport corridors, as well as on new and on-going developments which impact on cross-border operations. The availability of real-time information will assist transport operators to better plan their journeys, while also enabling public-sector decision-makers to make informed decisions.

INFORMATION ON THE PLATFORM IS CATEGORISED UNDER THE FOLLOWING HEADINGS

- **Instruments** – regional road transport agreements & regional trade instruments;
- **Information and Resources** – publications & research, country handbooks;
- **Trade and Logistics** – logistics performance and traffic flow data;
- **Corridor Performance** – live corridor and border traffic feed;
- **News** – events and notices.

HOW TO ACCESS THE PLATFORM

- 1) Click on <https://infoportal.cbrta.co.za/Trade-Logistics>;
- 2) **Register** as a standard user (select username and password);
- 3) **Type** in **username** and **password**;
- 4) **Navigate the platform.**

The C-BRTA places **harmonization and digital transformation** at the centre of its operations as it charts its way into the future

As a regulator of cross-border road transport, the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) has a proud history of providing a dedicated service to this unique niche of the road transport industry. Established in 1998, through the Cross-Border Road Transport Act its mandate is to facilitate the movement of passengers and goods across the border. The C-BRTA plays a vital role in ensuring in the efficacy of the cross-border road transport space, with specific reference to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

For the past 25 years of its existence, the C-BRTA has navigated through complex problems in a turbulent environment characterised by massive misalignment and lack of common approaches by different countries on matters pertinent to the region. This has, over the years, placed a difficult, but necessary task of driving the harmonisation agenda in the region for the benefit of cross-border transport and trade in SADC. This mandate requires the C-BRTA to embark on extensive stakeholder engagement programmes with different SADC countries through consultation and lobbying to promote harmonisation of regulatory regimes in the region.

The CEO of the C-BRTA, Mr. Lwazi Mboyi believes in improved intra-Africa trade and in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), hence he advocates for the development of smart corridors in the SADC region. Thus, Mr Mboyi places emphasis on harmonisation and extensive cooperation among member states and various stakeholders in the region as a precondition.

According to Mr Mboyi, harmonisation of systems, regulations and processes across the region remains the biggest challenge. To quote his words directly, he says *“there is a need to align systems and processes across borders to ensure seamless movement of passengers, goods and services.”*

As part of its efforts to addressing the issue of harmonization in the region, the C-BRTA, as a founding member and first chair, played a leading role in the establishment of the of the Cross-Border Road Transport Regulators’ Forum (C-BRTRF) to monitor and to assist in the mediation and resolution of inter-state road transport disputes and disagreements. This important Forum was officially commissioned by the SADC Ministers of Transport, Communication and Meteorology to serve as a body that will improve the cross-border road transport systems in the region by harmonising policies and reduce transportation costs, delays and transit times as well as eliminate regulatory fragmentation in the region. The initiative was driven by the need to ensure efficiencies in the cross-border road transport industry through the elimination of challenges that hamper trade between and among countries in the region.

Mr Mboyi in his remarks on the work of his organisation says *“As the C-BRTA, we hold a view that harmonisation is a key ingredient to free trade. We are delighted that there is a noticeable move from manual systems towards various digital platforms across the region and the continent at large. As the Agency, after many years of relying on manual permit application systems, we recently launched a digital cross-border permit application system.”*

The new Permit Application system, which is widely known as Cross-Easy, has transformed the permit issuance in the cross-border road transport industry by making it easier for operators to apply for permits from anywhere, anytime without having to visit the C-BRTA offices.

Having witnessed the benefits of the system to operators, the C-BRTA is now lobbying various countries to adopt the system as a way of standardising permit administration in





the SADC region. So far, the Agency has signed memoranda of agreement with several countries in the region to pilot the system. The system will soon be deployed to these countries, thereby enhancing the efforts of harmonising cross-border permit application and administration processes in the region. This is a step in the right direction because harmonisation of the permit system in the region will assist in harmonising regulatory requirements, procedures and standards and the integration of permit systems between member states in alignment with the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (TTTFP), Multilateral Cross-Border Road Transport Agreement (MCBRTA).

As a way of enhancing the system, plans are well under way to launch digital permits, which is an additional value-add for the operators and to ultimately move away from carrying paper permits. These digital permits will have the capability for tracking vehicles, which will contribute to the safety of cargo for both the shippers and transport operators.

“It will be good to see many countries in the region moving in this direction. As the C-BRTA, we will continue working and collaborating with Members States and various Transport Authorities on the continent to realise efficiencies in the cross-border road transport space,” said Mboyi.

Looking towards the future, the C-BRTA will continue collaborating with various stakeholders in South Africa and in the region to lobby and come up with mechanisms to confront all the challenges faced by the cross-border road transport industry. Fundamentally, the C-BRTA will continue to play an active role in the Cross-Border Road Transport-Regulators Forum to ensure that the harmonisation agenda is realised in the region.

In addition, the Agency is going to embrace smart law enforcement to ensure that there is general compliance to cross-border road transport laws and regulations. To this effect, the C-BRTA will deploy smart law enforcement tools to enable the Agency to conduct law enforcement in a smart and efficient manner to ensure general compliance in the industry. For instance, the Agency has a Smart Law Enforcement Vehicles which are used to enhance law enforcement operations and promote compliance to the C-BRT Act and various other road regulations.

These vehicles assist with gathering intelligence that is used in profiling operators and operations that assist management to ensure improved compliance.

The Agency remains committed to implementing quality regulation to ensure general compliance with relevant laws which govern the cross-border road transport industry. This will entail conformity with the quality regulation guidelines set by the Tripartite Alliance, comprising SADC COMESA and EAC. These measures would culminate in quality cross-border road transport operations that will enhance safety standards and compliance to road traffic, transport legislation and permit conditions. The guidelines provide a structured framework and standards that must be adhered to in conducting cross-border road transport business in the tripartite region.

In the next 25 years, the C-BRTA will cement its authority as an innovative and dependable and efficient regulator dedicated to ensuring seamless movements of passengers, goods and services, thereby improving trade in the region. The ultimate goal is ensuring transit and trade facilitation, hence promoting economic development in the region.

YOUR feedback is important to US

The C-BRTA appreciates
your **time** and **feedback**.



RESPONSE



RESULT



RATING



ADVICE



COMMENT



SURVEY

Inform us about your **experience**,
suggestions and **complaints**.

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