

TRANSCENDING BORDERS

The official Publication of the
Cross-Border Road Transport Agency
October 2018



**The CBRT-RF
is running
at full steam**



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VISION

The champion of free-flowing Inter-State operations.

MISSION

We spearhead the unimpeded flow of Inter-State operations thereby facilitating sustainable social and economic development.

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FROM THE CEO'S DESK



Dear Readers,

Allow me to welcome you to this instalment of our external publication, *Transcending Borders*. This publication serves as a tool through which the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) updates industry stakeholders about critical industry issues and what has been on our radar as the Agency as far as our work as a regulator is concerned.

We are releasing this publication at a time that South Africa celebrated October Transport Month which is an annual campaign championed by the National Department of Transport and its Entities to profile and highlight the role of transport in uplifting our economy. Likewise, all stakeholders in the transport industry are expected to showcase key activities in their area of work as a way of putting the transport industry on the map. As the C-BRTA, we have been hard at work engaging various stakeholders in our effort to eliminate the cross-border road transport operators' challenges to ensure the smooth flow of passengers and goods across the borders.

As a regulator, our work of creating a viable environment for efficient cross-border road transport operations relies on extensive stakeholder engagements. The nature of the cross-border business involves multi-stakeholders in, and, between countries and this is precisely why the bulk of our work is heavily reliant on stakeholder engagements.

This year marks an important milestone for the C-BRTA because we are celebrating 20 years. What makes it extra special is the fact that we are celebrating the first 20-year milestone at the time that South Africa is also celebrating the centenary of the former State President, Nelson Mandela and the struggle stalwart, Albertina Sisulu whose selfless contribution to the

struggle against apartheid brought us the freedom that we all enjoy today.

It gives us great pleasure as the C-BRTA that our first 20 year milestone coincides with our Government's national campaign to celebrate the life and times of our heroes and heroines who would have turned 100 years this year if they were still alive. This perfect coincidence is what we will cherish as we enter a new era in our organisational life. This places a challenge on us to double our efforts and continue to work hard in creating an efficient cross-border road transport industry.

In this issue, we have covered a variety of events and activities that our Agency as well as other industry partners have been busy with as part of our collective mandate of spearheading social and economic development through facilitating unimpeded cross-border road transport movements in Africa. Most of the articles in this issue depict this work and are meant to serve as an update to all industry partners about what we have been busy with over the past few months.

Some of the stories contained in the publication include, the progress made by the Cross Border Road Transport Regulators' Forum since its launch in March 2018, our multilateral meetings with other SADC countries and the recent SADC Ministers meeting which was held in Namibia.

Anyway, please page through to find out what other stories are included in this edition. Please enjoy the read!

Regards,

Siphon Khumalo

CEO: Cross-Border Road Transport Agency

A state of the art ranking facility to bring relief to passengers & operators

Plans are well under way to construct the premier and high quality one-stop long distance and cross-border ranking facility for buses and taxis in Johannesburg. The 55 000 square metre complex which is to be named the Johannesburg International Transport Interchange (JITI) is situated between Harrison and Simmonds streets in downtown Johannesburg.

Johannesburg is a major point of origin and destination for commuters from South Africa and the Southern African countries and this makes cross-border transportation an important contributor to the movement of passengers in the region. Given this, there is need to provide ranking facilities which can accommodate the demand for cross-border passenger transportation.

It is for this reason that the construction of the facility comes as a relief to the cross-border road transport industry, especially the taxi and bus operators as it provides a world class ranking platform with modern amenities and ample space to accommodate both taxi and bus operations.

The current plans for the facility indicate that it will cater for all cross-border taxis, all inter-provincial taxis and all cross-border buses. The construction of the interchange will help the South African government to address many challenges that were faced by the operators and passengers.

It is envisaged that this rank will help the city, operators and passengers with the following:

- Provision of quality, safe and accessible ranks including storage, ablution facilities, booking offices and adequate lighting etc;
- Eliminating on-street ranking for



long distance and cross-border services;

- Providing information to commuters on ranks and pick-up points for the majority of destinations; and
- Ensuring secure, off-street holding facilities for mini bus taxis and buses exist.

The City of Johannesburg is playing a leading role in the establishment of JITI and is working jointly with other role players in the transport industry to provide quality services to the operators and commuters. This will, among others, ensure safety and provide information to passengers, provide adequate and accessible ranking space as well as make it easier for regulators such as the C-BRTA to regulate the cross border road transport industry.

The CEO of the C-BRTA, Siphso Khumalo indicated that the C-BRTA is pleased

that the government of South Africa has taken steps to provide a one-stop long distance and cross-border ranking facility because this will eliminate the myriad of challenges faced by the cross-border road transport industry. He further said that these include the issue of inadequate ranking facilities in Johannesburg which in some instances result in the opening of illegal ranks which make it difficult for institutions such as the C-BRTA to regulate and enforce the law.

“The construction of this transport interchange in Johannesburg is a great step in the right direction. As the C-BRTA, we are delighted that the cross-border road transport industry, with specific reference to passenger transport, is making great strides in an effort to ensure improved and seamless cross-border movements.”

The C-BRTA hosts a Consultative Forum



On 12 September 2018, the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) hosted a national stakeholder consultative forum in Pretoria. The purpose of the forum was to afford the C-BRTA, government departments and entities as well as municipalities in the country an opportunity to discuss domestic challenges that affect the cross-border road transport operations.

The forum was launched in 2014 and to date, five sessions have been held and these have mainly attracted the participation of representatives from different government institutions - allowing them to discuss various issues affecting the industry. The Cross-Border Act 4 of 1998, as amended, stipulates under Part 7, section 36 the need for the establishment of appropriate consultative stakeholder forums. Therefore part of the role of the forum is to establish, formalise and maintain relations with various stakeholders in order for the C-BRTA to deliver successfully on its mandate. The forum also aims to further

serve as a structure to advise the Agency on cross-border related matters.

Through the forum, the intention is to improve the flow of cross-border road transport from South Africa into and within the SADC region thereby contributing to economic growth not only in South Africa but in the rest of the region. The forums also focus on industry education, promoting stakeholder democracy, shaping a strategic multi-stakeholder influence in order to improve efficiencies in cross-border road transport space to promote seamless cross-border road transport.

The C-BRTA will continue engaging various stakeholders as part of the national stakeholder consultative forums to in an effort to resolve issues that hamper smooth cross-border road transport operations. The date of future forums will be communicated to relevant stakeholders in due cause.

The **CBRT-RF** is running at full steam



The Cross-Border Road Transport Regulators' Forum (CBRT-RF) recently presented its report to the committee of Ministers responsible for Transport and Meteorology in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which was held in Namibia from 24 to 28 September.

This gathering presented an opportunity for the CBRT-RF to present progress on its work since it was established during the meeting convened by the regulatory authorities from mainland SADC member states in October 2017 in Pretoria. The purpose for this gathering was mainly to review Chapters 5 and 6 SADC Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology which deals with road transport and traffic provisions in the region.

Among the key issues for discussion at this workshop was the disruption to cross-border road transport operations and transit movements arising from different and inconsistent domestic laws, regulations and standards and systems across the region. As a way to drive the harmonisation agenda in the region, the workshop recommended the establishment of a Cross-Border Road Transport Regulators Forum (CBRT-RF) which would be made up of cross-border road transport regulatory agencies and/or government departments performing such regulatory functions in their respective countries.

Following this inaugural meeting the CBRT-RF met a number of times to develop the terms of reference and the strategy to guide its work. To this effect the scope of work of the CBRT-RF is primarily to champion the harmonisation of the road transport and traffic provisions as stated in Chapters 5 and 6 of the Protocol on Transport, Communications and Meteorology. Towards this goal, the CBRT-RF will use the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (TTTFP) as a platform to implement the Protocol with a view to develop and implement harmonised road transport policies, laws, regulations, procedures and standards for efficient cross-border road transport and transit networks, transport and logistics services, systems and procedures in the Tripartite region.

It is envisaged that by doing this work, the CBRT-RF will help the entire SADC region to move with speed towards ensuring efficient transportation of passengers and good, thereby improving trade and ultimately ensure economic development in the region.

The SADC Ministers noted the Cross-Border Transport Regulators Forum (CBRT-RF) Strategy, Action Plan and the work that has been done thus far. The forum was encouraged to champion its work which include, amongst others, seeking to identify and mitigate causes to Africa's triple challenges, namely the poor intra-continental transport system performance, poor intra-Africa trade and stagnant industrialisation. By this, the forum was given the stamp of approval to continue doing its work by the committee of SADC Ministers responsible for Transport and Meteorology.



Objectives of the forum

To this effect, the objectives of the forum are to;

- Maximise the road transport sector's contribution to the region's social and economic performance and growth;
- Harmonise the development and application of cross-border road transport policies, laws, regulations, standards and systems in furtherance of social and economic development;
- Engage in research and development activities in support of monitoring and evaluation; and
- Provide a platform for policy formulation, information and knowledge sharing and advocacy on road transport policy and regulatory issues concerning cross-border road transport sector.



It is envisaged that by doing this work, the CBRT-RF will help the entire SADC region to move with speed towards ensuring efficient transportation of passengers and good, thereby improving trade and ultimately ensure economic development in the region.



Since its launch in March 2018, the CBRT-RF has registered the following progress and achievements:

- Adoption of the Terms of Reference covering the objectives, functions, membership, governance, roles and responsibilities, meeting procedures, and reporting.
- Adoption of the Strategy including the Long Term Action Plan and the Annual Work Plan. The strategy includes the development of the Linking Africa Plan as one of the long term interventions to implement the strategy. The Linking Africa Plan (the LAP) is aimed at providing interventions toward addressing trade and transport challenges, unlocking Africa's economic growth and development; improving regional competitiveness, and enhancing intra-Africa trade and industrialisation in the continent.

The LAP has the following objectives:

- Identify causes to Africa's triple challenges of poor intra-continental transport system performance, poor intra-Africa trade and low industrialisation levels;
- Propose, prioritise and design a framework for implementation of interventions that respond to the identified causes;
- Develop a Plan that includes proposed interventions and reforms with a view to enhance coordinated implementation;
- Harnessing, integrating and synergising programmes with objectives aligned to LAP in order to optimise resources and impact; and
- Build consensus and obtain support from stakeholders on the Action Plan that will lead to implementation of the proposed interventions and action plans.

The scope of the CBRT-RF

- Concluding standardized multilateral agreements based on the principles of non-discrimination, reciprocity and extra-territorial jurisdiction. This will be pursued through the Multilateral Cross-Border Road Transport Agreement (MCBRTA).
- Creation harmonised system of third party insurance in the region as provided in the MCBRTA.
- Developing of compatible national road traffic information systems in support of the administration and enforcement of national and the regional road traffic and road traffic quality systems. This will pursued through the Tripartite Transport Registers and Information Platform and System as provided in the MCBRTA.
- Implementing harmonised vehicle regulations and standards such as dimensions and equipment standards, testing stations and procedures, transportation of abnormal loads and dangerous goods, and training and licensing of commercial drivers as provided in the MCBRTA.

Driving change in South Africa's Border Towns



The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) is well on its way to implement the Border Town Initiative as the Agency's way of contributing towards local economic development in various South Africa's border towns.

As a regulator of the cross-border road transport industry, the Agency has a mandate to drive industry development by spearheading social and economic development within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) through facilitation of unimpeded cross-border road transport movements. In order to live up to this mission, the Agency has identified the border town initiative as a key instrument which will enable the C-BRTA to drive meaningful change in various border towns and in the cross-border road transport industry as whole. To this effect, the Border Town Initiative rests on creating mutually beneficial relationships between the C-BRTA and municipalities responsible for border towns as well as border towns and the surrounding villages. With this approach, the Agency is able to identify initiatives which are unique to specific towns with the aim to devise specific interventions to drive economic development in the identified border towns.

For instance, at the heart of the relationship between the Agency and the aforementioned stakeholders is the need to identify local economic development initiatives unique to specific towns.

Through these relationships, the Agency aims to:

- Make inputs into the Integrated Development Plans (IDP) of the municipalities;
- Create strategic partnerships with appropriate local authorities;
- Assist the border towns to take advantage of existing opportunities as result of cross-border road transport movement spin-offs;
- Transforming the cross-border industry to ensure participation of the target groups; and
- Frequently supplying the border towns with market intelligence to assist these municipalities with planning, prioritising and decision making.

So far, the Agency has identified the following border towns Beitbridge, Oshoek, Lebombo and Skilpadhek which fall under Musina Local Municipality, Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Nkomazi Local Municipality and Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality respectively.

The intended beneficiaries of this initiative are the communities in and surrounding border towns, particularly youth and women owned SMME's. The expectation is that this programme will increase the participation of youth and women in commercial cross-border road transport and ensure skills development and create jobs.

The C-BRTA will continue to champion this initiative and ensure that it reaches more people and beneficiaries in various border towns which form part of this programme.

Ministers discuss transportation efficiencies in the region



From 24 to 28 September 2018, the Government of the Republic of Namibia hosted a joint meeting of Ministers responsible for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Public Information, Transport and Meteorology from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) mainland countries.

Ministers and their representatives from the SADC countries, except Madagascar and Seychelles, deliberated on several issues of importance to the region in relation to the four abovementioned sectors which fall under the Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology.

The four-day SADC joint meeting also drew the participation of Senior Officials responsible for Transport, Meteorology and ICT from across the region. Furthermore, as part of this joint meeting, various issues relating to the protocol were deliberated on to identify challenges as well as to ensure progress regarding the work of the protocol in general.

This joint meeting of Ministers also presented an opportunity for the recently established Cross-Border Transport Regulators Forum (CBRT-RF) to present its strategy and action plan as a way of demonstrating the level of work that had gone into the operations of the forum since its launch in March 2018. Please refer to page 4 and 5 to learn more about the work of the forum.

The C-BRTA plays a central role in advancing the work of the forum through its flagship project, the Linking Africa Plan (LAP). This is a transport and trade master plan geared towards championing efficient transport and trade on the continent.

The recommendations of the Senior Officials meeting, which preceded the Ministers' meeting position the C-BRTA's Linking Africa Plan as a key pillars necessary to enhance the work of the CBRT-RF. This technically meant that the C-BRTA received an affirmation and validation around its work of spearheading the unimpeded flow of passengers and good in the region.

South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe host a trilateral meeting to address issues affecting the transportation of passengers and goods in SADC



In an effort to live up to its mandate of championing the free-flowing inter-state operations, the cross border road transport Agency participates in various stakeholder engagement sessions. Among these are the bilateral, trilateral and multilateral meetings which the C-BRTA hosts with various countries that form part of the Southern African development Community (SADC). In June, a delegation representing the C-BRTA travelled to Zambia to participate in the trilateral meeting involving three countries, namely; South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The purpose of such meetings is to afford all the concerned countries and other cross-border road transport industry stakeholders such as operators and officials from government, regulatory and law enforcement authorities the opportunity to table and discuss the myriad of issues which affect the industry. The issues discussed, for instance, include challenges faced by governments in the region as well as challenges faced by the cross-border road transport operators who ply their business in the affected countries.

These multilateral meetings are prescribed by the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology which amongst others, encourages the harmonisation of laws as well as encouraging countries in the region to work in unison and adopt common approaches towards resolving issues that affect the transport industry.

Director of Transport from the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Zambia, Nicholas Chikwenya presented the Key note address on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Zambia. As part of his address, he remarked that the main objective of the meeting was to create a common platform where government agencies, regulators and the private sector in the road

transport sector can meet to discuss issues of common interest pertaining to major encumbrances faced by the road transport operators along the north south corridor and to jointly come up with practical solutions that will provide a frills free, cost effective and efficient transport system for the transportation of goods and people.

It is precisely for this reason that the Government of South Africa, through the C-BRTA, participates in these meetings to foster unity among countries and to adopt a common approach to problems solving as well as to learn from each other by identifying best practices in different SADC countries.

Amongst the issues that were discussed at this trilateral meeting, was the issue of foreign trucks being pelted with stones and burnt. In his opening remarks, the CEO of the C-BRTA, Siphon Khumalo, who also co-chaired the meeting with representatives from Zimbabwe and Zambia, noted the recent attack and burning of trucks in South Africa and committed to working together to find solutions to put an end to such matters. "An attack on trucks was an attack on the economy and therefore the matter was being treated with high priority to avoid any future incidents. The meeting was informed that South Africa has also sent two Generals from the South African Police Services to the meeting to provide feedback and an update on the attacks and burning of trucks in South Africa, said Khumalo.

Similar meetings with other SADC countries take place regularly and the C-BRTA actively participates in them to make sure that it represents the government of South Africa and the operators to make sure that issues that affect the cross-border industry receive attention at these meetings. The C-BRTA will continue to give updates on the outcomes of these meetings to ensure that all interested parties are kept informed about matters that are discussed at these meetings.

C-BRTA embarks on a study visit to the UK to refine OCAS

A delegation representing the C-BRTA under the leadership of the CEO, Siphon Khumalo recently embarked on a study visit to the United Kingdom (UK) to engage and consult various stakeholders on how to further refine the Operator Compliance Accreditation Scheme (OCAS).

OCAS is an intelligent risk-based regulatory tool composed of systems, processes, procedures and standards that will be used for certifying & licensing cross-border operators. The development of the Scheme is a direct response to the Agency's legislative mandate to reduce operational constraints faced by cross-border road transport operators in the region, to enhance the unimpeded flow of cross-border road transport movements and to empower cross-border operators to maximise business opportunities.

The Scheme will be underpinned by introduction of market access criteria, auditing, operator registration, registration of responsible competent persons, operator profiling and certification for authorization of all commercial operations on public roads. It is envisaged that the Scheme will be implemented by regulatory authorities in South Africa and the rest of the SADC region towards addressing the aforementioned deficiencies in the regulatory framework and challenges faced by cross-border road transport operators.

The major aim of implementing the Operator Compliance Accreditation Scheme is therefore meant to transform the current regulatory processes, procedures, standards and practices from the current system of quantity to quality regulation. This in turn will improve operator compliance as well as the quality, efficiency, reliability and productivity of the cross-border transport system.

In order to enhance this system the C-BRTA has identified the need to conduct consultation sessions with the aim of obtaining support and guidance in the design phase of this scheme, thereby aligning OCAS with international standards in line with the United Nations' conventions and standards.

In order to achieve this, the Agency undertook a study visit to the United Kingdom to benchmark against similar systems which have already been developed in other parts of the world.

For instance, this benchmarking exercise provided the Agency with an opportunity to probe and understand the processes followed, challenged experienced and lessons learned in developing and operating similar systems such as the Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS). This scheme is defined as a voluntary accreditation scheme for fleet operators

which aims to raise the level of quality within fleet operations, and to demonstrate which operators are achieving exemplary levels of best practice in safety, efficiency, and environmental protection in the United Kingdom.

As part of this benchmarking exercise, the C-BRTA delegation met with many stakeholders and organisations such as Transport for London, the Department of Transport and Freight Transport Association as well as other London based private sector organisations.

As part of the deliberations, the CEO of the C-BRTA addressed the stakeholders and said: "while we have a bustling international trade economy that continues to grow every day, commercial vehicle safety is our priority and it must be improved to lower the risk of collisions as freight travels domestically and across South Africa's borders. To ensure safe and easy passage, we need to improve our road freight infrastructure and robust commercial vehicle safety standards. Representing 17,000 members of the UK logistics sector, FTA is perfectly placed to advise us on how to develop these rules. We're committed to driving economic growth and prosperity, which will be borne out of safe, efficient trading partnerships, and our meeting with FTA has thrown up plenty of new ideas for us to adopt back home."

The stakeholders indicated that they were pleased to welcome the C-BRTA and the South African Department of Transport to the UK to share the wealth of knowledge and experience.

The Head of South of England and Urban Policy at the Freight Transport Association (FTA), Natalie Chapman said: "FTA has developed a worldwide reputation as the voice of the UK's logistics industry, which is at the heart of the nation's economic growth. International trade is booming in South Africa and the C-BRTA want to develop vehicle safety standards to improve its industry performance levels and lower the risk of collisions between commercial vehicle operators and other road users.

"We were delighted to meet C-BRTA to discuss the importance of commercial vehicle safety and share lessons learned. We advised on the development of a set of rules in partnership with on-the-ground operators to ensure the solutions will be welcomed by the industry and reflect the unique South African environment," said Chapman.

The C-BRTA will continue to work on improving OCAS to make it a world class regulatory tool with the aim of improving the flow of passengers and goods across Africa and ultimately contribute towards economic development in the continent.

BE COMPLIANT

CROSS-BORDER

GET YOUR PERMIT TODAY!

At the heart of the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) is a proud history of providing dedicated service to cross-border road transport operators, in the form of licensing commercial operators to convey passengers or goods as well as providing the necessary support to the rapidly growing small and medium cross-border road transport businesses. The C-BRTA has remained the driving force behind the cross-border business focus, regardless of the challenges it has faced over 19 years.

Established by the Cross-Border Road Transport Act 4 of 1998, the C-BRTA caters for co-operative and co-ordinated provision of advice, regulation, facilitation and law enforcement in respect of cross-border road transport. This is underpinned by the Agency's wholehearted belief in its mission of spearheading social and economic development within the SADC (Southern African Development Community)

region through facilitating unimpeded cross-border goods and passengers.

In order to regulate the Cross-Border Road Transport Industry, the C-BRTA offers permits for both cross-border passenger and freight operators. There are different types of cross-border permits and these can be found on the C-BRTA website. Permits are currently issued at the C-BRTA office in Pretoria.

Alternatively, permit application forms can be downloaded from the C-BRTA website, and completed applications can be emailed to permits@cbrta.co.za.

For more information on permits

call (012) 471 2000 or visit www.cbrta.co.za

