

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**To: All New Editors/ Transport Journalists**

**Date: 06 April 2018**

**For immediate use:**

The Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA) has noted with concern the media reports that are linking the proposed amendments to the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) Act with e- tolls fees collection and the Points Demerit allocation under the AARTO Act.

The AARTO process is designed to discourage contravention of traffic laws by levying penalties as well as point demerits on those who transgress the law. If infringers continue to transgress road traffic laws, they face the risk of their driving licenses being suspended. The demerit points system within the AARTO Act is the key to discourage drivers to transgress.

The consequences catered for within the AARTO Act for the transgressions are:

- Blocking of the renewal of a driving license;
- Blocking of the renewal or application for a PrDP or renewal or a motor vehicle licence as well as demerit points.

It should be noted that it was never the intention of the government to assign any demerit points to an infringement arising from non-compliance with the sign that directs that toll fees must be paid. The draft AARTO Regulations published in the Government Gazette (page 8) No. 39482 of 07 December 2015, clearly states that failure to comply with the said sign does not carry any demerit points.

When the AARTO Act is fully functional, motorists will have a right to dispute penalties through submissions to the Tribunal, which is an independent body proposed in the amendment Bill. The Tribunal will not charge any fees for motorists who refer disputed outcomes of representations. As it is the practice with many other appeal tribunals of this nature, the members of the Tribunal will not necessarily summon motorists to appear before it. Their decisions will be based on the documentary evidence of the disputed infringement, the reasons for unsuccessful representation by the Representations Officer and the reasons provided by the motorist when a representation was submitted. All these documents would be submitted to this body to be reviewed.

Ends

ISSUED BY: ROAD TRAFFIC INFRINGEMENT AGENCY (RTIA)

Media Enquiries: Monde Mkalipi

Telephone: 0833055212 / 0825753976