

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES AARTO SERVICE OUTLETS LAUNCH LIMPOPO

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Executive Mayors
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Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentleman

On the 1st of July 2021 in Midrand during the launch of the AARTO National Rollout Programme, the Minister of Transport, Honourable Fikile Mbalula announced that we mark a milestone with the process towards AARTO National Rollout which has been a long time coming. It is meant to deal a decisive blow to lawlessness on our roads, through implementation of the AARTO Act in a phased approach.

As we celebrate October Transport Month, it is befitting that Limpopo Province is fully behind the Phased AARTO National Rollout Programme. This four phased AARTO National Rollout approach is meant to give all provinces an opportunity to deal with any teething problems of this critical road safety intervention.

As a province, we have given our full concurrence to the phased rollout programme. October marks the beginning of Phase 2 of the rollout that will run until 31 December 2021.

Phase 2 of the rollout noted above is characterised by the:

- Coming online of 67 Local and Metropolitan Municipal Areas Proclaimed for AARTO Roll-Out
- Establishment of 18 service outlets nationally
- Adjudication process coming online in all provinces
- Appeals Tribunal coming in to full operation

Today, as part of October Transport Month, the Province of Limpopo is celebrating the launch of three AARTO Service Outlets.

These outlets can be found in Polokwane Local Municipality, Driving License Testing Centre in Ladanna.

Thulamela Local Municipality, Thohoyandou Traffic Department, Sibasa, next to Mbilwi Secondary School.

The third one is in Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, number 01 Kastania Street, Municipal Building, Burgersfort.

May I add that the province has already trained 309 traffic officers in support of Phase 2 of the AARTO National Rollout Programme to assist officers in implementing the new regulations.

The Phase 2 being launched today will see electronic service of documents being introduced in earnest, which means that law enforcement can be effectively supported by technology, servicing documents by electronic means, such as e-mail.

In addition, infringers can exercise their elective options accompanied by the introduction of the Independent Appeals Tribunal, where Infringers can appeal against the rulings of the Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA) to the tribunal where such representations were not successful.

Further, Phase 3 starting on the 1st of January 2022 to 30th of June 2022, will witness all remaining local authorities to be proclaimed AARTO ready in the province.

Programme Director, the purpose of these AARTO Service Outlets that we are launching today is that they act as an expansion of a national footprint for the RTIA. This significant milestone brings AARTO services closer to the road users of Limpopo.

Road users will get a chance to check their AARTO infringement status, and also be advised on how to resolve outstanding AARTO infringements by selecting from the available legislated elective options.

However, at the moment no cash payments will be taken at the service outlets. But, the public is encouraged to use all available online payment platforms as provided by the RTIA. Plans are afoot to provide for card payments in all the AARTO Service Outlets as the Phased Rollout Programme progresses.

Ladies and gentleman, the Province of Limpopo is acutely aware of the comments and questions that the public has with regards to the AARTO National Rollout and the Points Demerit System.

The impact of the points demerit system embedded in the AARTO process is such that there will be an allocation of demerit points for specific transgressions committed by infringers on our roads. This is an objective and fair system of identifying reckless drivers and law breakers, so that we can remove them from the driving fold.

Mindful of the difficult economic climate, government has had to respond to the circumstances in rolling out this critical intervention set to change the landscape to reduce the high rate of non-compliance to traffic laws and to inculcate a new habit of voluntary compliance to road traffic laws.

It is only fair to note that the AARTO rollout process, is not without challenges for the province. Some municipal areas are still struggling with connectivity to the NaTiS system. Our technicians working closely with all the implementing partners in the AARTO value chain are working hard to resolve all outstanding challenges.

At the end of the day, it is the road users that stand to benefit from this innovative system that will increase safety and compliance with all road traffic laws in the province. All road users will be educated and empowered to use all AARTO elective options through public awareness and education campaigns at these service outlets.

It must be noted that the achievement of this rollout is as a result of the collective effort with all critical stakeholders in the AARTO value chain guided by the lead Agency the Road Traffic Infringement Agency.

We make a clarion call to our municipalities to address all deficiencies and ensure that the Phased AARTO National Rollout Programme becomes a huge success in Limpopo Province.

Thank you.

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