

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES AARTO NATIONAL ROLLOUT 01 OCTOBER 2021

His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa

Gauteng Premier Mr David Makhura

Transport MEC's from all 9 Provinces

Deputy Minister of Transport Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga

RTIA Board Chairperson Ms Bongekile Zulu

RTIA Acting Registrar Ms Dalian Mabula

SALGA Chairperson/CEO

CEOs of Transport Entities Present

SANTACO President Mr Phillip Taaibosch

The Media Present

Ladies and Gentleman

Honourable President, as part of the Department of Transport's strategy to enable safer road user behavior and to reduce the number of accidents and fatalities, government approved the implementation of the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences Act 2019 as Amended.

As indicated in my 01st of July 2021 update statement, that AARTO will be rolled out nationally in a phased approach, today marks a milestone Mr President, where AARTO is officially proclaimed and rolled out nationally in a phased approach as promised to the South African public. Today we keep that promise.

Upon rolling it out throughout the country, we will be able to adequately address the carnage on our roads. This road safety intervention has been in the making for a number of years to improve the situation on our roads and to save lives.

Each death on our roads represents an average loss of 4.6 million Rand to the economy, in terms of lost productivity, pain and suffering as well as legal and funeral costs. We can no longer continue in this path! The AARTO Act ushers in 'Business Unusual' on our roads, as it makes way for the following provisions:

- **Points Demerit System:** This is an objective and fair system of identifying reckless drivers and law breakers so that we can remove them from the driving fold.
- **Common penalties:** All traffic violations throughout the country will carry the same penal values.
- **Electronic service:** This means that law enforcement can be effectively supported by technology, servicing documents by electronic means, such as e-mail. Similarly, infringers can exercise their options electronically.
- **Infringement Appeals Tribunal:** Where Infringers can appeal against the rulings of the RTIA to the tribunal.
- **Repeal of court elections:** Where Infringers do not have to be burdened by the courts for infringements.
- **Driver Rehabilitation programmes:** Infringers who have their licences suspended can attend rehabilitation programmes before being allowed back in the driving fold. This shows that the AARTO is not just about punishment but has intentions to ensure compliance and change of road user behaviour.

As a signatory to the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2019 – 2030 (UNDoRS), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to give effect to these commitments, as a country we developed the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) 2016-2030. Such strategy is geared towards the reduction of road fatalities, injuries and crashes, thus making the country's roads safer.

Admittedly, road safety challenges in South Africa can be directly linked to the culture of non-compliance to road traffic laws evidenced by the fact that less than 20% of road users pay for outstanding infringements without consequence, leading to the notion that people can get away with dangerous behaviour and not be held accountable for their actions.

AARTO will radically change road user behaviour by holding every infringer accountable for their actions through the National Contravention Register and the points demerit system. Road traffic cases will not be struck off the court roll but, will be dealt with administratively through a common infringement management system similar in all issuing authorities. This new infringement management system is what South Africa needs to address the carnage on our roads. It's a bold move that will shape and mould voluntary compliance to road rules and regulations without fear or favour.

Thank you.