

TRANSCENDING BORDERS

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Cross-Border Road Transport Agency
December 2017



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FROM THE CEO'S DESK



Dear Cross-Border Industry Partners,

I t gives me great pleasure to introduce you to this instalment of our industry publication, **Transcending Borders**. The purpose of this publication is to update you about our work as well as various events and projects that have been on our plate from April till November 2017.

As a regulator of commercial road transport operators, conducting cross-border transport operations in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), we are required to constantly engage various stakeholders in the region and the continent as a whole. This explains the constant engagements and extensive traveling to various parts of the continent with the aim of trying to find solutions to the challenges faced by different regulatory authorities and our primary clients, the cross-border road transport operators when they conduct the business of transporting passengers and goods in the continent. Stakeholder engagement is a key part of our job because it will be difficult, if not impossible, to resolve the complex issues inherent in the transport and trade space in the continent without engaging with our counterparts in other countries.

On the 11th October 2017, we hosted the OR Tambo International Road Transport Indaba in Pretoria to create a platform for robust debates amongst transport and trade specialists from different parts of Africa, Asia, Europe and Australia. At this Indaba, we presented the “Linking Africa Plan” concept which is a transport and trade campaign aimed at highlighting the need to integrate

African economies through efficient transport and trade. We had the pleasure of having the Deputy Minister of Transport, Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga in our midst. When she addressed the delegates, she encouraged all the attendants to work tirelessly in resolving the issues that hamper trade on the continent. This was a call to all of us as role players to get our hands dirty and make the necessary difference in the continent. Indeed, the delegates resolved to do just that! Please read a detailed report on this Indaba on page 3 and 4.

As the C-BRTA we are committed to our mandate of regulating the free flow of passengers and goods in the region and we have been hard at work doing that. In this edition, we have covered some of the initiatives and events which took place over the past few months. These include the recently held workshop on the SADC Protocol, our October Transport Month (OTM) events, the Cross-Border Road Transport Seminar, the signing of the MOU with (OGEFREM), who is our counterpart in Democratic Republic of Congo.

I hope you will find this edition informative and entertaining. Please enjoy the read and always keep in mind that your feedback and suggestions are always appreciated.

Warm regards,

Siphon Khumalo

CEO: Cross-Border Road Transport Agency



The C-BRTA hosted an INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRANSPORT INDABA to improve the state of transport and trade in Africa

In its effort to highlight the transport and trade challenges in Africa, the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency held a three-day OR Tambo International Road Transport Indaba from 15 till 17 October in Pretoria, South Africa, which attracted more than 200 participants.

The rationale behind the Indaba was to afford transport and trade specialists from Africa and other regions of the world to critically discuss the challenges and state of transport and trade in the continent as well as to highlight the possible solutions to these challenges. In this regard, the C-BRTA used the Indaba as the platform for launching the Linking Africa Plan, a transport and trade campaign which is mainly intended to challenge African economies to identify their competitive advantage and find better ways of trading amongst themselves to improve intra-Africa trade.

The Indaba also gave the participants an opportunity to benchmark against global success stories and practices in respect of how trade and transport played a critical role in driving economic development. It was for this reason that a diverse group of carefully selected speakers from different countries such as South Africa, Japan, Australia and DRC, played a key role in identifying the linkages between trade and transport. This brought diverse views on how the challenge of transport and trade in Africa can be tackled.

The Indaba was attended and officially opened by the Deputy Minister of Transport in South Africa, Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga. In her remarks, she emphasised the need for African economies to tackle transport and trade challenges to increase the continent's chance of moving faster towards achieving its economic development goals.



“It is an established fact that the integration of the African continent would not be feasible without transport playing a critical and strategic role in ensuring that physical barriers of the different African countries are physically linked in terms of transport infrastructure through roads, railway lines, shipping routes and air transport connections,” said Deputy Minister Chikunga.

The CEO of the Agency, Mr Sipho Khumalo indicated that transport plays a critical role in driving economic development. He also said that transport is a key pillar of the Linking Africa Plan. *“To achieve meaningful economic growth and industrialization in Africa, transport must be repositioned not just a servant of trade, but as a twin partner of trade. Transport must be geared as an instrument for ‘linking’ various disparate, smaller economies of countries in Southern Africa,”* said Khumalo.

He further said that the thesis for the Linking Africa Plan is centred on the twin partners of transport and trade.

He used the following phrase to illustrate this point; *“Without transport, there can be no trade, without trade, there can be no meaningful industrialization, and without industrialization, African economies cannot be transformed, and meaningfully diversified because there is no sufficient buying power inherent within individual African countries.”*

The Indaba will be held every two years to allow all the participants and different countries enough time to implement and monitor implementation of the resolutions.

The Minister of Transport visits Beitbridge Border Post



The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) hosted the Minister of Transport, Mr Joe Maswanganyi on a tour of the Beitbridge Border Post between South Africa and Zimbabwe on 28 June 2017. The purpose of the border visit was to give the Minister of Transport an opportunity to assess the cross-border operations at the Beitbridge Port of Entry, which is the busiest commercial border post amongst all the borders that link South Africa with its neighboring countries.

As part of the activities of the day, the C-BRTA partnered with other road transport Entities such as the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), Road Accident Fund (RAF) as well as other law enforcement agencies to conduct a road safety campaign which was aimed at promoting safe transportation of passengers and goods along the N1 Corridor that leads to the port of entry.

The Minister of Transport said the border visit offered him an opportunity to interact with officials who are responsible for managing the Port of Entry and to know about the overall operations and related challenges. He also interacted with members of the public who were at the border post precinct at the time of his visit.

The C-BRTA normally conducts visits of this kind to assess the operations at various border posts that link South Africa with its neighboring countries. The Minister and the Deputy Minister of Transport, as the shareholders of the C-BRTA, are often invited to expose them to the challenges and successes which are being registered at these border posts. This enables them as the political principals to make the relevant interventions at the political level to ensure that there are efficiencies in the cross-border road transport space.





SADC AGREES TO *MOVE WITH SPEED* TO ADDRESS TRANSPORT CHALLENGES IN THE REGION



As a way of living up to its mandate of facilitating the smooth flow of passengers and goods across the borders, the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) in partnership with the Department of Transport (DoT) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat held a workshop on 10 October 2017 to discuss the challenges experienced by member countries in implementing the SADC Protocol.

The main objective of the workshop was to allow SADC member states an opportunity to discuss and review certain chapters of the SADC protocol to ensure that they respond to the current transport and trade challenges which hamper efficient transportation in the region. Such challenges include the need to provide for a regulatory framework for road traffic and road transport within, and between, member states with a view to ensure seamless, efficient, quality, safe and cost effective road transport movements. The impact of this is that the cross-border road transport operators find it difficult to conduct business in the region due to different regulatory requirements, different documentation standards, requirements and operating procedures, different third party insurance cover requirements, delays and congestion along corridors and the high cost of doing business.

These challenges are a result of the weakness in the regulatory framework between countries, failure by member states to

fully implement the regulatory framework, failure by regulatory authorities to harmonize regulatory practices and requirements, standards and procedures, incorrect implementation of the Agreements, unclear cross-border legislation and lack of common understanding of the provisions of the Protocol and Agreements amongst others.

It is for this reason that representatives from SADC member states such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe attended and participated in the workshop to give country progress report on how they are responding to the abovementioned challenges as well as to discuss how the region as a whole can adopt a common approach to the key issues.

The workshop resolved that there is a need for the region to work closely in addressing the cross border road transport industry challenges. To this effect, a task force was established to develop the terms of reference and a work-plan for the establishment of a Cross-Border Road Transport Regulators Forum (CBTRF) for submission to the SADC Committee of Senior Officials at their next meeting which took place at the end of October 2017 and come up with an action plan aimed at addressing the identified challenges, optimising opportunities and moving the regional road transport sector forward.

The C-BRTA wraps-up its



Campaign in Oshoek



The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency wrapped up its 2017 October Transport Month campaign with three events which were held in Oshoek, Mpumalanga from 25 to 27 October.

The three events included the Women and Youth Information Sharing Seminar, Joint Law Enforcement Operation and Oshoek Border Visit. Although the three events formed part of the Agency's OTM programme, they are also part of the C-BRTA's Border Town Initiative, which is a programme designed to drive local economic development along the corridors that lead to border posts and in border towns. This initiative is mainly centred on identifying economic opportunities which exist in the cross-border road transport industry. In driving this programme, the Agency partners with municipalities and other interested stakeholders in these border towns and design programmes to create awareness about the existing opportunities.

The Women and Youth Information Sharing Seminar which was held on Thursday, 26 October at Mlondozi Sports Ground in Oshoek was intended to share these opportunities with the Community of Oshoek and the neighbouring villages.

When addressing the community, the CEO of the C-BRTA, Siphon Khumalo outlined the role that transport plays in our everyday

lives as well as in contributing towards economic development. "Let me take this opportunity to reflect on the role of transport as the backbone to everything we do. If we are to think about it, without transport, none of us would be able to travel to work, we would not be able to enjoy a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables, children would not be able to attend school and we would not be even able to reach the hospital when we are sick. To stretch it even further, we would not even be here this morning as this entire event relied on transport to be put together," said Khumalo.

He further indicated that transport also plays a crucial role as the connecting fibre between areas such as Hartebeeskop to the rest of the country, and the world.

"Research has proven that there is a strong correlation between lack of access to basic road infrastructure and poverty. Rural roads, which are mostly gravel, are often a contributing factor to the reason why rural communities lag behind in development as they are not adequately connected to surrounding communities and amenities. It is for this reason that adequate transport infrastructure and services have a significant role to play in uplifting the lives of rural communities," said Khumalo to a loud applause.

The C-BRTA conducts a JOINT LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATION to ENSURE SAFE TRANSPORTATION of passengers and goods



As part of the three day programme, the C-BRTA also conducted a joint law enforcement programme which targeted the road traffic which was traveling to and from the Oshoek Border post. The main purpose of the joint law enforcement operation was to ensure safe transportation of passengers and goods along the corridor. In executing the operation, the C-BRTA partnered with other law enforcement authorities such as the South African Police Service (SAPS), the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA), Road Accident

Fund (RAF), South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), Mpumalanga Provincial Traffic Police and the Albert Luthuli Local Municipality's Traffic Police as well as the Department of Home Affairs.

While the main aim of the operation was to ensure safe transportation of passengers and goods, the approach was to target illegal cross-border operations, unlicensed drivers and vehicles, illegal immigrants, illegal importation and exportation of goods. The operation ran for three days from Wednesday 25 till Friday, 27 October 2017.

The C-BRTA advocates for Road Safety at schools

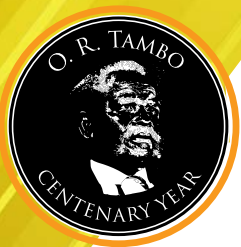


On Friday, 27 October 2017, the C-BRTA in partnership with the Road Accident Fund (RAF), South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) visited two schools namely Mdlondozi and Madzanga primary schools in the Oshoek area as part of the Agency's scholar road safety awareness campaign.

The purpose of the campaign was to encourage road safety by educating the learners about the basic principles road safety. This included educating them about the primary responsibilities of Motorists, Passengers, Cyclists and Pedestrians and how all these road users must observe the rules of the road to avoid accidents which kill people if not followed. The C-BRTA as well

as the stakeholders on this programme agreed to compile a comprehensive road safety strategy specifically to promote general road safety in schools in the Oshoek area and the surrounding communities. Once the strategy is complete, all the stakeholders will revisit the community and the identified schools to launch it as a comprehensive approach to road safety in the area.

The learners and teachers at the two schools which were visited expressed their appreciation of the campaign and indicated that they would like to see this initiative grow to protect the lives of learners in the area.



C-BRTA Hosts Transport and Trade Experts from Different African Countries to Discuss Transportation Challenges in the Continent



The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) hosted transport and trade experts from various countries from 29 to 31 May 2017 as part of the Cross Border Road Transport Seminar.

As a regulator of commercial cross-border road transportation in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region, the Agency produces an advisory report called the Annual State of Cross-Border Operations Report (ASCBOR) to update the Minister of Transport and other stakeholders in the cross-border transport industry about key issues.

This report outlines the transport and trade challenges along major corridors in SADC and also proposes possible solutions to these challenges. It is for this reason that various transport and trade experts from across the continent were invited to form part of the seminar to interrogate the report with the main purpose of using it as the main point of reference when addressing transport challenges in the continent.

The CEO of the C-BRTA, Mr Siphon Khumalo indicated that the ASCBOR is an essential advisory tool which many transport

authorities can use to develop policies to address transport and trade challenges in the continent. This is based on the view that transport is a servant of trade, which essentially means that without transport, there can be no trade. "Transport is an enabler of trade, and with road transport being the widely used mode of transport to move people and goods across the continent, its challenges will certainly have a huge impact on the efficiency of trade in the continent," said Khumalo.

As part of the programme, different stakeholders from different organizations presented on various topics in relation to transport and trade challenges in the region. The C-BRTA CEO gave a high level presentation on one of the Agency's key project, "The Linking Africa Plan," which is a transport master plan which the C-BRTA will be championing over the next few years in an effort to ensure that the continent responds to its transport and trade challenges.

The delegates acknowledged the C-BRTA's effort to compile the ASCBOR and there was a general sense that it indeed serves as a tool to advise the industry on matters relating to transport and trade in the SADC region. The seminar resolved to devise a monitoring tool which will enable all the stakeholders to track the progress of initiatives that are being implemented in the SADC region.



CROSS-BORDER ROAD TRANSPORT SEMINAR 29 - 31 May 2017 • Southern Sun Elangeni & Maharani, Durban



transport
Department:
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (CBRTA) recently signed a Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with its counterpart Agency in the Democratic Republic of Congo, OGEFREM. OGEFREM is a French acronym of Office de Gestion du Fret Multimodal (Office for the Management of Multimodal Freight).

This milestone came after both organisations started engaging and agreed to craft a way forward to address the constraints that operators face.

However, this could not be realized because there was no bilateral road transport agreement between the two countries. The two organisations then agreed that there was a need to formalise the relationship through the drafting and signing of a Bilateral MOU.

This Bilateral MOU forms part of the implementation plan of the broader Transport Agreement that has been signed between the

two countries. It also cements the formalization of the relationship between the two Agencies and allows for both South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo to ensure efficient regulation of freight transport between the two countries.

The CEO of the C-BRTA, Siphon Khumalo at the signing ceremony, emphasized that the formalisation of the relationship between the C-BRTA and OGEFREM was a milestone because it signalled the beginning of a long journey of working together in addressing the multiplicity of cross-border road transport operator challenges along the corridors which link the South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“The MOU between OGEFREM and C-BRTA which aims to exchange information and experience will definitely help the two institutions to fulfil their core functions and to facilitate trade between DRC and South Africa,” said the CEO of OGEFREM, Sayiba Tambwe.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BILATERAL MOU

- Promote and facilitate cross border road freight services between and in transit through the respective countries
- Provide for the development of a long-term, strategic partnership between the C-BRTA and OGEFREM which provides the opportunity to establish mutual benefits to both Agencies for the improvement of the cross border road transport between South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Seeks to promote fair and equal treatment to road transport operators of the respective countries
- Serves to further simplify existing administrative requirements in the interest of road transportation between South Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Serves to recognize the developmental needs of the transport industries in the territories of both countries

OVERVIEW OF OGEFREM

OGEFREM was established in 1980 as a State Owned Enterprise. In 2008, following a reform of all State Owned Enterprises, OGEFREM changed its status to become a public entity under the Ministry of Transport. OGEFREM is mandated to manage cross border freight movement between South Africa and the DRC. To execute their mandate, they carry out the following functions:

- Manage Congolese freight from the production to the consumption;
- Advise government on policies relating to transport of freight;
- Enforce legislations and regulations relating to the transport of freight;
- Conduct studies to identify tariff and non-tariff barriers and develop strategies to remove them;
- Serve as a union of importers and exporters as well as other auxiliaries of transport;
- Gather statistics of Congolese imports and exports and
- Assist Congolese importers and exporters in their transactions.

**OVERVIEW
OF THE C-BRTA**

The C-BRTA is established in terms of the Cross-Border Road Transport Act (C-BRT Act) No. 4 of 1998. The primary reason for the Agency's existence is to license Cross Border operators and to execute the following mandate:

- To eliminate impediments in the flow of passengers and freight by road across regional borders
- To introduce regulated competition in cross-border passenger transport
- To liberalise market access in the cross-border freight transport
- To reduce operational constraints for the cross-border road transport industry
 - To enhance and strengthen the capacity of public sector; and
 - To build industry partnerships and to empower the cross-border road transport industry.

Furthermore, the Agency is geared towards achieving the strategic intent of the SADC Protocol on Transport, Communication and Meteorology.

OBEY THE LAW

AND CROSS-ALIVE THIS FESTIVE SEASON

The festive season is upon us, and the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA), through its Cross-Alive campaign, urges motorists and passengers alike to take responsibility when using South African roads as well as roads beyond our borders. Road accidents and incidences are a combination of non-compliance with the rules of the road, driver fatigue, poor driver health and road unworthy vehicles. It is therefore important for all road users to enforce the law upon themselves.

To have a safe and an uneventful trip, you need to ensure the following:

A As a road transport operator

- Ensure that you have a valid cross-border permit at all times.
- Keep to the recommended maximum number of passengers
- Ensure that all passengers have relevant travel documents or passports
- Compile a passenger list before leaving the rank or the bus station
- Ensure that luggage is securely packed and fastened
- No overloading
- Always wear a seatbelt

B Driver fitness and compliance:

- Get a minimum of 6 hours sleep prior to a long journey
- Eat well to stay fit as a public transport driver
- Do not drive when feeling weak, tired or sick
- Ensure your public driver permit is still valid

C Vehicle Roadworthiness and compliance:

- Check if the vehicle licence disk is still valid
- Check if the tyres are in good condition before starting your journey
- Check if your brakes are in good order
- Check if all lights are working
- Service your car regularly

The Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) strives to ensure road safety through promoting a self-regulation culture among goods and passenger transportation across the Southern African Development Community Borders (SADC). It is critical to enforce the law upon yourself. By doing so, you will automatically reduce: speed and other traffic violations; overloading, thus preventing road damage and preventing road accidents, thus saving lives.



**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE C-BRTA PERMIT OFFICE
WILL CLOSE AT 10H00 ON 22 DECEMBER 2017
FOR PERMIT APPLICATIONS.
FROM 27 TO 29 DECEMBER 2017, THE OFFICE WILL
CLOSE AT 12H00 FOR PERMIT APPLICATIONS.**