

24th October**NATIONAL OFFICE**

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MEDIA STATEMENT
BUSA WELCOMES SUSPENSION OF TOLLS
PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATION

Business Unity South Africa welcomes the decision to suspend toll roads projects around the country until such time as further consultations could be concluded. BUSA agrees with the Minister that in light of the significant cost implications for the general populace and business in particular, the need to proceed with the projects supported by the general buy-in of affected parties will be key to their success.

BUSA is pleased with the inclusion of Treasury in the Ministerial task team tasked with taking the issue forward, as it is clear from current rising trends in the costs of doing business in South Africa that the way infrastructure provision and maintenance are funded need to be carefully reconsidered.

BUSA believes that the viability of instituting Open Road Tolling systems in urban areas need to come in for scrutiny in particular, as the concentrated nature of our economy means that this will result in certain downstream cost multiplication, which will both affect the cost competitiveness of our economy and impact poor consumers.

While BUSA understands that the suspension does not extend to the first phase of Open Road Tolls for the Gauteng Freeway improvement project envisaged for activation in February next year, we nonetheless hope that steps will be investigated to soften the economic impact of this leg of the system as well.

ENDS.



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