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MEDIA STATEMENT

**BUSA REQUESTS URGENT MEETING WITH TRANSPORT
MINISTER ON TOLL ROADS TARIFFS**

BUSA this past week sent a letter to Transport Minister Sibusiso Ndebele to request an urgent bilateral meeting on the toll roads tariffs structure for the Open Road Tolling network being rolled out in Gauteng, in view of its widespread economic and business implications.

BUSA accepts the need for effective road infrastructure funding and supports the principle of a toll road system, but there needs to be proper consultation to ensure that it does not exacerbate unemployment, or worsen the quality of life of poorer South Africans.

Since Gauteng generates a third of the country's GDP, it is also an issue of great national importance. It will raise the costs of doing business in South Africa even further beyond what could be considered competitive for a developing economy wanting to compete globally.

Those who can least afford it will be hit the hardest. As the South African National Roads Agency's (SANRAL) current tariffs structure proposal stands, studies show that freight transport costs could increase in excess of 20%. This will exert significant inflationary pressure through consequential increases in the costs of basic foodstuffs. Commuter transport will also become more expensive, with workers already said to be spending up to 60% of their salaries on transport.





While making attempts to do so since May of 2010, BUSA has been unable to get a clear picture of the new tariffs structure and its implications for Business, as SANRAL indicated it was not in any position to disclose the necessary information. In coming to its present tariffs structure proposal, SANRAL has not allowed for significant consultation with business stakeholders or the broader public.

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