
Media Statement

DATE : Friday 20 December 2024

TO : All Media

ATTENTION : News Editors / Transport Reporters / All Reporters

For immediate use

MINISTER CREECY APPROVES GAZETTING OF TRANSNET'S FINAL NETWORK STATEMENT

PRETORIA: The Minister of Transport, Ms. Barbara Creecy has approved the publishing of the Transnet Network Statement for the rail network in South Africa. The Network Statement facilitates open access to South Africa's rail network by third-party operators.

"The Network Statement paves the way for third-party rail operators to participate in the rail network in a just and fair environment. This gives rail operators a clear understanding of the terms and conditions for accessing the rail network", said Minister Creecy.

This important decision is one of the policy commitments in the White Paper on National Rail Policy approved by Cabinet in March 2022 and the Freight Logistics Roadmap that was adopted by Cabinet in December 2023.

"These critical policy documents envisaged rail as the backbone of an effective transport system to facilitate the movement of people and goods.

"In allowing third-party access, it is critical to emphasise that rail infrastructure is a strategic asset and its ownership will remain in the hands of Government.

"This will help ensure the realization of Government's target of transporting 250 million tons of freight per annum on the Country's rail network in the next five years", said Minister Creecy.

The Network Statement was developed through an inclusive consultative process which started in March 2024 when Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM) published the draft Network Statement for comments and the Interim Rail Economic Regulator (IRERC) managed the consultation process.

This process included Transnet, key rail industry stakeholders and interested parties. It also got support from the Operation Vulindlela in the Presidency.

The Network Statement provides an overview of the freight rail network that includes its key corridors, infrastructure and services. Key elements such as access conditions, capacity allocation, charging and pricing are also covered.

The tariff regime is based on a differentiated tariff methodology for the entire freight rail network. The Network Statement is a menu and the access tariff for the third party operators to be part of the National Rail Freight network for the Country.

The 2024/2025 tariffs will be applicable for the remainder of the current financial year. The newly created TRIM will be able to receive access requests and implement a third-party access regime for the rail industry.

Rail operators will be able to plan their services efficiently and taking into account the capacity allocation and the access fees to be charged therefore triggering much needed investment in the rolling stock.

This approach can help ensure that both public and private investment in railways is achieved,

Transnet has applied to the National Treasury for the **NATIONAL TREASURY BUDGET FACILITY** to address the funding requirements.

It is anticipated that new rail operators will take advantage of this new dispensation and contribute towards achieving Government imperatives to move rail friendly freight cargo from road back to rail.

This will also contribute to economic growth and job creation.

The final Network Statement is available on www.transnet.net/Pages/Network-Statement.aspx under the Infrastructure Manager link www.transnet.net/Pages/Infrastructure-Manager-Overview.aspx and also through the

Department of Transport website, <https://www.transport.gov.za>, under the IRERC link
https://www.transport.gov.za/?page_id=1419

Ends

ISSUED BY: National Department of Transport

Media Contact:

Collen Msibi

National Spokesperson

066 476 9015