

MEDIA STATEMENT

Date: Thursday, 11 October 2018

To: All Media

**Attention: News Editors / Transport Reporters
For Immediate Use**

JOINT MINISTER OF TRANSPORT STATEMENT WITH THE ROAD FREIGHT INDUSTRY

The Minister of Transport, Dr. Blade Nzimande, met with representatives of the freight logistics value chain do deal with the implementations of the regulations on high cube containers.

Minister Nzimande was joined by officials from the Department of Transport, Port Regulator, Transnet Port Terminal, SANRAL and representatives of the Western Cape government.

The meeting discussed the implementation of regulation 224 (b) of the National Road Traffic Regulations, 2000 under the National Road Traffic Act, of 1996.

The regulations provides that any vehicle, other than double-deck busses, may not exceed an overall height limit, including load projections of 4.3m.

The High Cube container has an overall height of 2.9m compared with the 2.6m for a standard container. This means that a vehicle transporting a standard container, with an overall height of 4.3m would not be permitted to transport a high cube container.

In acknowledging that the deadline for the enforcement of the regulations is fast approaching and in order to ensure that a smooth transition is guaranteed, the meeting agreed that, despite the seven year (7) lapse since the agreement by government and the industry to deal with the compliance to the Act, the following shall immediately apply:

1. The meeting resolved to immediate establishment an inclusive Technical Task Team constituted of the Department of Transport officials and the industry to facilitate and ensure that the unintended

consequences of the lapse are minimised before the expire of the present moratorium;

2. The meeting agreed to place a moratorium on the application of punitive measures and that Law Enforcement Agencies collect data for the purposes of the smooth transition when the period expires. This moratorium will be in effect from 01 January 2019 to 01 January 2020.
3. The Technical Task Team is expected to report progress on its work including the research to be led by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in June 2018.

“In arriving at this decision, as the Minister of Transport, in line with the resolutions of the `jobs Summit and the International `investment `Conference to be held by South Africa, I have considered the role of the road freight industry and maritime industry in driving confidence in our country’s economy and help spur sustainable and inclusive growth,” said Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimade further said that the industry must use to temporary relief to ensure that they adhere to all the laws of our country which are aimed at levelling the playing ground for all economic variables without degrading public infrastructure such as road and associated services.

“In doing so, the industry must also be active participants in the implementation of the National Road Safety Strategy; the Comprehensive Maritime Transport Policy, in particular Coastal shipping and observe all Labour Relations laws including sectoral determinations,” emphasized Minister Nzimande.

-Ends-

Issued by:
Minister of Transport
159 Struben Street
Pretoria
0001

www.transport.gov.za

Enquiries: Mr Ishmael Mnisi on 072 566 0827