

Media Statement

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TO: All Media

ATTENTION: News Editors / Transport Reporters / All Reporters

For immediate use

R408 MILLION TAXI GRATUITY A CONTINUATION OF A COVID-19 TAXI RELIEF FUND PROGRAMME.

PRETORIA: The National Department of Transport has set the record straight on the R408m taxi gratuity, pronounced in the budget speech, as a continuation of the taxi relief fund programme approved by Cabinet. In 2021, Cabinet approved an allocation of R1.135 billion intended to mitigate the negative financial impact of Covid19 on the minibus taxi industry and e-hailing services, without compensating for the loss of income, but was rather based on the principle of an ex gratia payment.

A total of 141 987 qualifying operating licenses are on the Taxi Relief Fund system. As of 31 March 2023, 88 580 licenses were successfully processed. A total of 62% of qualifying applications were received.

An extension on the timeframe was requested which was approved by Cabinet in order to reach the balance of operators who have not been able to apply by the deadline. The allocation of R408m is therefore the continuation of the programme.

A taxi operator must meet the following criteria in order to qualify for the taxi relief funding—

- (a) be a South African citizen or permanent resident in the Republic and;
- (b) be in possession of a valid operating license, or receipt as proof of application for renewal of an operating license;
- (c) Must be registered for income tax with the South African Revenue Services.

The Department oversees the disbursement of the fund and has developed an in-house system for the Taxi Relief Fund of all qualifying operators whose applications are captured in this system, and the necessary supporting FICA documents are also uploaded. Only the applications from the qualifying operators will be processed.

ISSUED BY:

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