

Media Statement

29 August 2015

Transport Shareholders welcome High Court's order over e-NATIS transfer

The Transport Shareholder Task Team has welcomed the judgement ordering the Department of Transport to transfer the Electronic National Traffic Information System (e-NATIS) function to the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC).

The judgement was delivered by the High Court of South Africa, Gauteng Division, Pretoria in a matter between the Department of Transport and Tasima on 28 August 2015. The court also ordered that the decision taken by then Director-General for the Department of Transport, Mr George Mahlalela to extend the contract of Tasima by five years be set aside.

The Transport Shareholders Task Team comprises of MECs Vusi Shongwe (Mpumalanga), Butana Komphela (Free State) and Ms Mapule Mokaba-Phukwana (Limpopo) all responsible for transport / traffic and community safety in their respective provinces.

According to the chairperson of the task team MEC Butana Komphela, the outcome of the court confirms the Shareholder Committee's February 2015 decision taken at a meeting in Kliptown mandating that the e-NATIS function be transferred to and executed by RTMC with effect from 1 May 2015.

Following that decision, Tasima then took the Department of Transport, RTMC and other stakeholders to court in order to prevent the transferring of e-NATIS function to RTMC, of which the bid failed.

Delivering judgement, Her Lady Justice Hughes stated: "the DOT has much to say about the fact that there is public interest in the e-NATIS System being removed from Tasima due to voidable contract and irregular expenditure already incurred. In addition there is also the investigation by the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) which highlighted the illegality, unlawful, provenance of Tasima's monopolistic tendencies perpetual financial gain in operation of e-NATIS System, which heightened public interest."

The committee's task team believes that the High Court's decision into the matter especially in the light that the e-NATIS System has been declared a National Key Point in terms of National Keypoint Act of 1980 will benefit and protect ordinary South Africans.

It also believes that the implementation of the system by the Department or its agencies such as the RTMC will go a long way towards saving costs linked to outsourcing the service to an external service provider.

The committee further concurs with the Department of Transport's submission that RTMC in terms of its statutory obligations will continue with the function that was performed by Tasima.

It further confirms that the RTMC is ready because it has been preparing itself to operate the system upon the expiry of the contract between the department and Tasima.

According to the committee task team, the department would further save lot of taxpayer's money linked to outsourcing this service. It said the money that was to be paid to the service provider should rather be directed towards nationwide road safety initiatives and campaigns in order to reduce road crashes and save unnecessary loss of lives on the road.

The committee has also expressed confidence in RTMC's ability to deliver on the tasks on managing traffic information on behalf of the department and provinces.

Ends...

Issued by Transport Shareholder Committee Task Team

Enquiries: MEC Butana Komphela (Chairperson)

Contact

Mobile: 072 1168 773