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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

NOTICE 2384 OF 2024

INVITATION TO THE CONSULTATION BY THE INTERIM RAIL ECONOMIC REGULATORY CAPACITY (IRERC) ON THE DRAFT TRANSNET NETWORK STATEMENT

On the 08th December 2023, Cabinet approved the Roadmap for the Freight Logistics System in South Africa ('the Roadmap') which requires the IRERC to manage consultation process on the Draft Transnet Network Statement (Draft Network Statement). Pursuant to the Cabinet approval of the Roadmap, the IRERC hereby invite the public and interested persons to participate in the consultation on the Draft Network Statement published on the Transnet website by submitting written comments. The Draft Network Statement is available online at https://www.transnet.net under the Infrastructure Manager link (https://www.transnet.net/Pages/Network-Statement.aspx), and also via the Department of Transport website, https://www.transport.gov.za, under the IRERC link.

The purpose of the consultation is to gather inputs on the Draft Network Statement.

BACKGROUND

The White Paper on the National Rail Policy which was approved by Cabinet in March 2022, pronounced that the IRERC was established to guide strategic direction for implementing economic regulation in the rail sector. The National Rail Policy further states that the IRERC model will be utilised as an interim arrangement for rail economic regulation within its mandate until the Transport Economic Regulator (TER) is established. In addition, the Roadmap pronounced that the IRERC should guide the development of the Network Statement in consultation with the Infrastructure Manager and private sector stakeholders. The Roadmap further states that the IRERC should manage the consultation process on the Network Statement and provide recommendations for incorporation in the final version, including with respect to the methodology for the calculation of access charges.

It is against this background that the IRERC hereby invites interested persons to submit written comments on the Draft Network Statement to the IRERC within **30 days** from the date of publication of this Notice but no later than the 26th April 2024. The written comments should be addressed to the **Director-General: Transport** for the attention of:

Ms. Mala Somaru / Mr. Noko Mashala
Department of Transport
Private Bag X 193
PRETORIA
0001
E-mail: Irercsec@dot.gov.za
Tel: (012) 309 3925 / (012) 309 3522

INFORMATION GATHERING SESSIONS

The IRERC will also hold information gathering sessions in Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg. Interested parties who wish to attend or make representations of their comments in person to the IRERC should register with the IRERC Secretariat at Irercsec@dot.gov.za within **15 days** from the date of publication of this Notice but no later than the 5th April 2024, using the Registration Form available on www.transport.gov.za under the IRERC link. The dates of the information gathering sessions will also be communicated under the IRERC link.

Further details regarding the consultation process will be available on the website, www.transport.gov.za.

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