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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

NOTICE 2992 OF 2025

INVITATION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS ON TRANSNET'S DRAFT NETWORK STATEMENT AND PROPOSED RAIL ACCESS TARIFFS FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

PURPOSE

This Notice hereby invites interested persons and stakeholders to submit written comments on the Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM)'s draft Network Statement and Rail Access Tariff Proposal for the 2025/26 financial year to the Interim Rail Economic Regulatory Capacity (IRERC) within **21 days** from the date of publication of this Notice but by no later than **28 February 2025**.

The written comments should be addressed to the **Director-General: Transport** for the attention of the IRERC Secretariat:

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

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 for the Freight Logistics System in South Africa ("the Roadmap") which was approved by Cabinet on 8 December 2023, 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 to the Minister for incorporation in the final version, including with respect

to the methodology for the calculation of Rail Access Tariffs. It is against this background that the IRERC is undertaking this public consultation process.

The first Network Statement for the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 was finalised and published in December 2024. It was consulted on in 2024. The Network Statement and Rail Access Tariffs should therefore be updated for the next financial year, which commences on 1 April 2025. The draft 2025/26 Network Statement and Rail Access Tariff Proposal documents have been published by TRIM on 7 February 2025 on the website, and are available online at https://www.transnet.net under the Infrastructure Manager link (https://www.transnet.net/RenderPage.aspx?id=5371632), 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.

VIRTUAL INFORMATION GATHERING SESSION

Interested persons and industry stakeholders are invited to the Information Gathering Session which will be held virtually on **Tuesday**, **25 February 2025** from **09h00**. The purpose of this Information Gathering Session is to solicit inputs from stakeholders on the Draft Network Statement and Rail Access Tariffs proposed by TRIM for the 2025/26 period. Interested parties who wish to attend or make presentations of their comments to the IRERC should register with the IRERC Secretariat at Irercsec@dot.gov.za by no later than **20 February 2025** using the **Registration Form** which is available on www.transport.gov.za under the IRERC link, https://www.transport.gov.za/?page_id=1419. The MS Teams link will be sent to interested parties and stakeholders who have confirmed their attendance.

Further details regarding the submission of written comments and the consultation process will be made available on the Department's website www.transport.gov.za, under the IRERC link, https://www.transport.gov.za/?page_id=1419.

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