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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

NO. 7436 **6 May 2026**

INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT NATIONAL RAIL MASTER PLAN (NRMP)

1. PURPOSE

The Department of Transport hereby gives notice to all interested and affected parties that it will be undertaking a series of public consultations on the draft National Rail Master Plan (NRMP). The NRMP is a strategic framework aimed at revitalising and modernising South Africa's rail network to support economic growth, improve mobility, and enhance integration across passenger and freight rail systems.

Members of the public, stakeholders, and interested organisations are hereby invited to participate in the consultative process from 23 April 2026 to 22 July 2026. The Draft National Rail Master Plan is available online at https://www.transport.gov.za/

The consultations are intended to:

- Present the draft National Rail Master Plan and its key proposals;
- Solicit inputs, comments, and recommendations from stakeholders and the public; Ensure inclusivity, transparency, and stakeholder alignment in the development and implementation of the NRMP.

2. BACKGROUND

The National Rail Policy (White Paper, 2022) mandates the development of the National Rail Master Plan as a practical, actionable, and phased blueprint to transform policy into a revitalised, modernised, and competitive rail system. The NRMP serves as a long-term, multi-decade implementation plan aimed at positioning rail as the backbone of South Africa's freight and passenger transport system.

On 1 April 2026, Cabinet approved the draft NRMP for public consultation. The Department will officially launch the public engagement process in Gauteng Province on 23 April 2026, followed by consultations in all other provinces.

To support the consultation process, the Department will introduce a centralised, web-based digital platform hosting the draft NRMP. The platform will include GIS mapping, interactive tools, and a user guide, and will serve as the primary channel for public and stakeholder engagement.

The platform will be accessible via the Department of Transport's website, and all media and public engagement on the draft NRMP will be coordinated through this platform.

Further details regarding date,venues and times will be communicated in due course on the DOT website.

4. SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

Written submissions and comments on the National Rail Master Plan are hereby invited and must be submitted within 90 days from the date of publication of this notice.

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