

# Partnership established to improve freight sector efficiency

To improve freight efficiencies and the flow of goods throughout South Africa and the Africa continent, the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport, industry associations in the supply chain, transport and retail sectors have established the Gauteng Freight Forum - a platform which will provide a common place for information sharing between the private sector and government.



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This forum will also assist in troubleshooting and intervening in areas of concern as they arise.

"This forum is important so that the sector does not have to look for government," says Jacob Mamabolo, Gauteng MEC for Roads and Transport. "That is why it is important for us to meet monthly and analyse risks relating to the corridors (our roads, ports and rail) – looking at risks and threats, dealing with them promptly and swiftly. Information sharing is critical for this."

The forum has committed to ensuring that the movement of essential goods and services continues, with the active cooperation between the private sector and various arms of government.

**The following organisations have joined the forum:**

- The Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA)
- The Road Freight Association (RFA)
- The South African Association of Freight Forwarders (SAAFF)
- The South African Express Parcel Association (SAEPA)
- The Transport Forum

Gauteng remains a key destination for freight with more than 60% of freight originates or leaves through Gauteng. "We want to re-position Gauteng as the inland hub for freight and logistics: we need to realise its competitive advantage," says Mamabolo.

During its inaugural meeting, the Gauteng Freight Forum agreed to work on a concept to secure the corridor/s. This includes ensuring there are visible policing and law enforcement activities.

The freight industry has welcomed the establishment of the forum saying:

"We are here. We are committed. We will collaborate all the way," says Dr Juanita Maree, chairperson of the South African Association of Freight Forwarders.

"We fully support the establishment of the Gauteng Freight Forum and look forward to working together to keep the wheels of our economy turning," adds Gavin Kelly, CEO of the Road Freight Association.

"The voice of the freight industry will be heard," concludes MEC Mamabolo, saying "we are now on a sound strategic footing for the secure movement of freight within the Gauteng province."

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