

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA welcomes proposed extension of driving licence validity period
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EMBARGO	None
ENQUIRIES	communication@psa.co.za

The Public Servants Association (PSA) has noted the announcement by the Minister of Transport regarding the possible extension of the validity period for driving licences in South Africa.

The proposal under consideration seeks to increase the validity period for ordinary motorists from the current five years to eight years, whilst maintaining a two-year renewal cycle for professional drivers such as those operating buses, taxis, and heavy vehicles. The PSA previously called for the validity period to be increased to ten years, but an eight-year period is also welcomed.

The PSA supports any initiative aimed at improving service delivery and reducing administrative burdens on citizens. Extending the validity period for ordinary motorists will significantly ease congestion at licencing centres and reduce costs for drivers. It will further alleviate pressure on the Department of Transport, which has faced persistent backlogs owing to unfilled positions, ageing infrastructure, and reliance on a single card-printing machine.

The PSA, however, urges the Department of Transport to ensure that the financial sustainability of the Driving Licence Card Account (DLCA) is addressed, as renewal fees currently fund its operations. Operational readiness must be prioritised, including the procurement of new card-printing equipment to prevent future backlogs.

The PSA further calls on the Department to provide clarity on timelines and to guarantee that any changes will not negatively impact employees in the licencing system. The matter must be speedily finalised, noting prolonged engagements, current backlogs, pressure faced by the DLCA, and citizens' economic constraints.

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