



**MINISTRY  
TRANSPORT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, MR. MKHULEKO HLENGWA (MP)  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT BUDGET VOTE AT THE  
NCOP 3 JULY 2025, CAPE TOWN**

Honourable Chairperson

Chairperson of the Select Committee on Transport, Public Service and Administration,  
Public Works and Infrastructure, Mr Frederik Badenhorst

Honourable Minister of Transport, Ms Barbara Creecy

Provincial Delegates to the NCOP

Honourable Members

The Minister mentions some of the challenges we are facing with road accident fatalities. I will expand on that a little. South Africa's annual road crash fatalities, usually numbering around 12000 and above, is unacceptable and unsustainable. The National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) 2016–2030 sets a target of reducing fatalities in the country by 50% by 2030 from the 13 967 fatalities recorded in 2010. This target equates to achieving 6 984 fatalities in 2030. As mentioned a 50% reduction this is a United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Decade for Road Safety target.

We are reiterating our previous commitment to accelerate the implementation of the 2/47 – 365 day programme supported by all three spheres of Government, increasing frequency and scope of educational programmes.

Our efforts will be targeted at changing the public's attitude and eventually their behaviour towards road safety and the rules of the road as we all take responsibility to save lives.

We have thus worked to speed up the resolution of all issues that have delayed the implementation of a 24-hour, seven-day a week and 365 days a year campaign of visible traffic law enforcement.

While the country waits for all remaining provinces to finalise their processes and implement a 24-hour shift traffic law enforcement system, the National Traffic Police (NTP) will continue to be deployed to provide support to Provinces and ensure greater traffic law enforcement operations across South Africa.

### **Reviewing the National Road Safety Strategy**

The department is reviewing the National Road Safety Strategy, 2016-2030 and will submit to Cabinet by the end of this financial year. The revised strategy will inform engineering interventions, such as the development and promotion of safer road infrastructure designs, safer vehicle technologies, and continuous improvements in traffic management systems.

Our approach is to improve harmonization of operations between the three spheres of Government through joint planning, consistency and shared resources and services. Joint-planning and inter-agency collaboration for performance-based interventions must be conducted throughout the year and following a theme-based Road Safety Plan under the guidance of the National Road Safety Steering Committee.

This will be supported by visible policing through force multiplication and smart deployments on critical routes, focusing on top traffic offences and violations, while intensifying partnerships and collaboration with civil society and media influencers, actions which have served to give us a reduction in fatalities over the Easter holidays.

Road safety awareness and education continues to be the most important instrument in our hands as a department, which is implemented through National Participatory Educational Techniques and Road Safety Debates targeted at grade 10 - 11 learners;

youth programme in institutions of higher education and colleges and driver programme for the freight and public transport operators.

## **AARTO roll-out**

Chairperson,

*Given that more than 80% of road crashes are due to human error, there is an objective case for behaviour changing efforts on our part. In order to positively affect road user behaviour the department will roll out the Administration and Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) Act, central to which is the demerit system that systematically aims at containing road user behaviour.*

*The AARTO will be rolled out in different phases according to municipal readiness from 1 December 2025 for the 69 municipalities which are ready for the rollout, which is Phase 2 of the AARTO rollout programme, while phase 3 will be rolled out on 01 February 2026 144 municipalities that will only be ready then.*

## **Professionalising the vehicle testing and licensing environment**

A great number of licenses and permits are issued fraudulently and this remains a major damper on our efforts to grow compliance among road users and keep our roads safe.

The Department together with national and provincial treasury aim to ring-fence funds for the upgrade of Registering Authorities, Driving Licence Testing Centres, and Vehicle Testing Stations to comply with the minimum requirements for service delivery standards and set resources in place to fight fraud and corruption in the road traffic environment. This will form an intricate part of the Department's Service Delivery Improvement Plan.

## **Online license renewal and online vehicle registration**

The successful roll-out of online licence renewal services and online vehicle registration through our digital transformation of operations marks a major milestone in bringing government services closer to the people. In the past financial year, the RTMC processed over 2 million online licence renewals, an increase of 56.4% from 2023/24, as well as 78 566 online registrations, and 112 845 online change of ownership transactions.



## Act Now: Shield Your Business from AARTO's Immediate Impact

The Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) Act will revolutionize South Africa's traffic enforcement with its national rollout confirmed for [December 1, 2025, in 69 municipalities \(Phase 2\), followed by Phase 3 on February 1, 2026, for 144 municipalities \(see Page 3\)](#), as [announced by Deputy Minister of Transport, Mr. Mkhuleko Hlengwa, on July 3, 2025](#). The AARTO Regulations state: *"The allocation of demerit points will be introduced in three phases to ensure road users are gradually introduced to the implications of the demerit point system. This will avoid a situation where many vehicles are suspended, and numerous drivers are disqualified shortly after implementation of the system. This will have a huge impact on the economy as well as the social well-being of road users."* With over 80% of road crashes linked to human error, AARTO's demerit point system targets behavior—but its immediate impact, especially in Phase 1, threatens businesses and employees. Is your company prepared?

### Why AARTO Demands Your Attention

AARTO is a fair and just system that requires a comprehensive understanding of its do's and don'ts, and SASMiNT, with over 15 years of expertise, is your best partner to navigate it. AARTO recognizes that many road users, including companies, treat traffic fines as a cost of doing business, budgeting for them and passing costs to clients. Drivers are often pressured to operate unregistered or unroadworthy vehicles and meet unrealistic timelines under threat of disciplinary action, contributing to accidents and infractions. AARTO shifts this paradigm by treating road use as a privilege subject to strict terms and conditions under the National Road Traffic Act (NRTA). Just as your company enforces policies for access and behavior, AARTO enforces compliance with traffic laws. Failure to comply triggers severe penalties, including monetary fines, demerit points, driver's license suspension, vehicle license suspension, vehicle impoundment, and court summons for directors. The onus is now on vehicle owners and management to address violations promptly, or face economic and operational fallout.

### AARTO's Phase 1: Common Infractions, Major Risks

AARTO's Phase 1, effective from December 1, 2025, targets the **most common traffic infractions**, which account for the vast majority of fines. *These include speeding (e.g., driving 90 km/h in a 60 km/h zone incurs 5 demerit points and a R3400 fine)*, dangerous overtaking, failing to stop at traffic lights or stop signs, ignoring road signs, driving with faulty brakes or lamps, unroadworthy vehicles, and operating without a valid driver's license or roadworthy certificate.

Serious offenses like DUI also carry demerit points and potential vehicle impoundment. Ignoring fines—due to ignorance, lack of funds, or other reasons—can lead to driver’s or vehicle’s license suspension, placing the onus on vehicle owners to address all violations promptly. Here’s what you need to know:

1. **Management’s Role in Infractions:** Many accidents and infractions stem from management’s failure to address vehicular conditions (e.g., unroadworthy vehicles, faulty brakes) or driver concerns (e.g., fatigue, training). AARTO imposes **dual penalties**, holding vehicle owners and management accountable alongside drivers. Owners are presumed liable unless they prove otherwise, such as by nominating the driver for camera-related violations (e.g., speeding, red-light infractions) within 32 days.
2. **Every License Matters:** Employees have one driver’s license, and demerit points from Phase 1 infractions—work or private time—accumulate. **Every point exceeding 15 demerit points incurs a three-month suspension** (e.g., 3 points over 15 results in a 9-month suspension), preventing employees from driving to work or performing duties, disrupting roles like sales, technical services, or office staff.
3. **Commuting Risks:** Employees losing licenses due to common Phase 1 infractions (e.g., speeding, running red lights) or unpaid fines may be unable to commute, causing absenteeism, supply chain delays, and productivity losses across your workforce.
4. **Serious Offenses, Major Consequences:** Arrests for offenses like DUI or reckless driving in company vehicles lead to **vehicle impoundment**—a significant loss, as companies often prioritize physical assets—and create legal and operational challenges. Pre-AARTO, drivers bore the consequences of management’s oversights; now, AARTO points the finger at management for allowing infractions.
5. **Vehicle and Director Liability:** Failure to nominate a driver for camera-related violations within 32 days or to pay fines promptly results in demerit points allocated to the vehicle’s license, potentially leading to suspension or other penalties. Directors may also face court summons to explain driver actions, risking operational licenses.
6. **Workplace Safety Overlap:** AARTO, enforced by the Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA), intersects with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, requiring employers to ensure roadworthy vehicles and compliant drivers to avoid indirect labor law violations.

## Critical Questions for Your Business

- **Can you afford absenteeism or supply chain disruptions?** Suspended licenses from unpaid fines or common infractions threaten workforce availability.
- **Are you addressing vehicle and driver risks?** Neglecting maintenance or training incurs dual penalties under Phase 1.
- **What if a company vehicle is impounded or suspended?** Asset loss and operational delays hit hard.
- **Are your vehicle inspections robust?** Logbooks and checks demonstrate compliance and reduce risks.
- **Can directors afford court summons?** Non-compliance could lead to legal scrutiny.
- **How will you manage suspended drivers or key staff?** Labor laws complicate terminations, requiring proactive planning.

## The Clock Is Ticking: Act Before December 1, 2025

AARTO's phased rollout aims to ease its impact, but the prevalence of Phase 1 infractions and the risk of extended license suspensions from unpaid fines mean businesses face immediate economic disruptions. Unprepared companies also risk social consequences for employees unable to commute or work. Proactive steps include:

- Implementing AARTO compliance policies, including timely driver nomination for camera-related violations and demerit point tracking via the AARTO business portal.
- Ensuring regular vehicle inspections to address Phase 1 roadworthy offenses and maintain compliance records.
- Educating all employees on AARTO risks, including the consequences of unpaid fines, through road safety training to minimize infractions in private and work time.
- Consulting experts to align with traffic and workplace safety regulations.

### Join SASMiNT's AARTO Compliance Seminar

Don't let AARTO's Phase 1 infractions or unpaid fines cripple your operations or workforce. SASMiNT (Pty) Ltd, with over 15 years of expertise in AARTO education, presents **"AARTO Ready: Safeguarding Your Workforce and Operations"** in Johannesburg. Led by traffic law and labour experts, this seminar offers:

- Actionable strategies for fleet and employee license compliance, including managing camera-related violations.
- Tools to monitor demerit points and mitigate risks from unpaid fines across your workforce.
- Legal insights on navigating AARTO, director liability, and workplace safety obligations.
- Interactive Q&A to address your company's unique challenges.

**Date:** **Johannesburg August 21, 2025** **Cape Town September 10, 2025**

**Register Now:** [\[Registration Link\]](#)

**(Our links are secure and safe to download, hosted by SASMiNT (Pty) Ltd.)**

With only months until AARTO's rollout on December 1, 2025, the time to act is now. Register today to equip your business with the knowledge and tools to thrive under AARTO and avoid economic and social disruptions.



# AARTO Risk Workshop

## Registration & Enquiry Form



### SASMINT – Your AARTO Shield

Thank you for your interest in preparing for AARTO’s national rollout (01 DECEMBER 2025).

Our workshop equips decision-makers to mitigate risks and protect business continuity. Please complete the details below to secure your spot or request a tailored solution.

#### Option 1: Public Seminar Registration

- **Location:** Johannesburg **Date:** August 21, 2025
- **Location:** Cape Town **Date:** September 10, 2025
- **Cost:** R3,500 per delegate  
(includes lunch, materials, and “Gratis” e-Traffic Fine Library Toolbox, R5,000+ value)
- **Spaces:** Limited

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Number of Delegates

Johannesburg		Cape Town					
--------------	--	-----------	--	--	--	--	--

#### Option 2: In-House Executive Presentation Inquiry

Request a tailored session for your directors and management.  
A separate quotation will be provided based on your needs.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Submission:

- Email completed form to [ina@sasmint.co.za](mailto:ina@sasmint.co.za)
- For urgent inquiries, call 08611-22786 (AARTO) WhatsApp 071 850 7428

Act now—spaces for the public seminar will be limited, and in-house slots are filling fast.

We’ll confirm your registration or follow up with a quotation within 48 hours.

**SASMINT – Empowering Leadership for AARTO Compliance**

**View a snippet of companies who have attended our seminars [HERE](#)**