

13 December 2021

TO: Minister of Transport
Honourable Mr FA Mbalula

C/O: Ms Z Groepe

Per: Email (TransportMinistry@dot.gov.za)

CC: Director General
Mr Alec Moemi
Department of Transport

C/O: Ms Michelle Phenya

Per: Email (PhenyaM@dot.gov.za)

Dear Sirs,

OUTA'S PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE DRIVERS LICENSE CARD RENEWAL CRISIS

1. The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse ("OUTA") is a proudly South African non-profit civil action organisation comprising of and supported by people who are passionate about improving the prosperity of our nation.
2. Part and parcel to OUTA's mission is the challenging of legislation and the regulatory environment. It includes but are not limited to the participating and engaging with government on regulation to legislation such as the National Road Traffic Act Regulations.
3. OUTA is further geared towards the harmonious cooperation with government on various levels and seeks to assist government wherever necessary in carrying out its mandate in the best interests of the citizens of South Africa.
4. OUTA is of the opinion that the South African government faces a significant crisis of legitimacy when it is unable to address simple public service shortcomings. The renewal backlog of driving license cards is a case which OUTA wishes to assist government with by proposing a possible solution.
5. The purpose of this letter is to engage with the Honourable Minister of Transport on OUTA's proposed solution to the drivers license card renewal crisis in South Africa.

ORGANISATION UNDOING TAX ABUSE NPC

Reg No.: 2012/064213/08

Directors: WL Duvenage (CEO), Adv. S Fick,

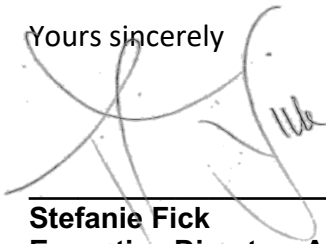
Non-Executive Directors: W Modisapodi (Chair), P Majozi, LJJ Pauwen, F Adam, T Pillay Van Graan, Dr H Volmink

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6. It is common cause that the current renewal process is cumbersome to ordinary citizens. The process has technical challenges such as dysfunctional equipment and a defunct online booking system. The crisis is exacerbated by reduced capacity in testing centres and corruption which result in motorists being unable to secure bookings in time to meet deadlines for the renewal of their driving license cards. South Africa follows a five-year renewal period model and the sub-par renewal process causes frustration with the online booking systems. OUTA strongly believes that there is an obvious need for efficiency in the administration of the driving license card renewal process.
7. OUTA contends that the solution proposed would not cost anything. It may cause the reduction in income for specific public entities but this can be offset by reduced administration costs.
8. OUTA is therefore of the opinion that the Minister of Transport and, by extension, the Department of Transport can announce a formal and permanent extension of the driving license renewal period to 10 years. The period suggested is the time frame applicable in many other countries.
9. The proposed solution will decrease the current pressure on government to keep up with increased administrative demand. It will allow the driving license card renewals' operational processes, methods and systems to be evaluated, assessed and improved over the next 5 years.
10. OUTA has further noted that Government Gazette No.37048 (published by the Honourable Minister at that time, Dipuo Peters on 19 November 2013) amended Regulation 108(5)(a) of the National Road Traffic Regulations and extended the period of driver's license cards validity from 5 to 10 years. Unfortunately, on 31 October 2014 a further amendment was published in the Government Gazette No.38142 which again amended the entire Regulation 108 and affectively changed the period back to 5 years.
11. It is currently unclear as to why government reverted back to the 5 year renewal model. What seems clear is that government did consider this solution at some point .
12. OUTA therefore strongly recommends this extension which can easily be affected by the Minister. The Minister can, by publishing new Regulations in the Government Gazette, eliminate or at least alleviate, the current and otherwise inevitable future backlogs. These backlogs waste time and money, and create unnecessary stress.
13. In order for OUTA to be in a position to propose this solution, OUTA has conducted research and has compiled a document which critically analysed the driver's license renewal process. We wish to share it with the Minister of Transport.

14. We reiterate that OUTA is geared towards the harmonious cooperation with government on various levels and seeks to assist government wherever necessary in carrying out its mandate in the interests of the citizens of South Africa.
15. As such, we kindly request the Minister's availability to engage with OUTA on this possible solution.
16. Should you have any queries, kindly contact OUTA's Senior Legal Project Manager, Andrea van Heerden at andrea.korff@outa.co.za.
17. We trust that you find the above in order and look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



Stefanie Fick
Executive Director: Accountability and Public Governance Division
OUTA – Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse
Email: stefanie.fick@outa.co.za