

17 June 2025

TO: Minister of Transport  
The Honourable Barbara Creecy

PER: (Email) [REDACTED]

C/O: [REDACTED]  
PER: (Email) [REDACTED]  
(Email) [REDACTED]

AND TO [REDACTED]  
PER: (Email) [REDACTED]

Dear Minister Creecy

## **URGENT CALL FOR A MORATORIUM ON FINES DUE TO DELAYS IN DRIVER'S LICENCE CARD ISSUANCE**

On behalf of the Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA), we write to express our deep concern about the growing frustration faced by motorists who may face unfair treatment or may even be penalised for expired driver's licence cards, despite having followed due process.

Recent reports confirm that the Department of Transport is currently experiencing a backlog of approximately 733,000 to 747,500 unprinted licence cards, with delays attributed to issues with card machines, administrative inefficiencies and high demand. In the interim, many law-abiding motorists may be issued fines by law enforcement officials for not physically possessing their renewed cards even when they hold receipts or valid temporary licences proving compliance.

This practice will clearly be unfair. The public is being penalised for failures not of their own making but because of a broken system that is currently unable to meet service delivery expectations.

It is important to note that during the COVID 19 pandemic, the Department recognised the exceptional circumstances and issued blanket extensions on the validity of expired driver's licences, allowing the public reasonable leeway while the system was caught up. This temporary relief was an example of fair, compassionate governance in the face of operational disruption. We urge the Department to take a similar approach now

especially given that this crisis stems from internal systemic failures rather than a national emergency.

We therefore request the Department consider:

1. Announcing a moratorium on fines related to expired driver's licence cards for motorists who have already applied for renewals and that no temporary licenses are required until all backlogs have been cleared.
2. Public communication of this moratorium through all official channels including RTMC platforms, provincial traffic authorities and traditional and social media.
3. Providing clarity to all enforcement officials to prevent unwarranted fines and harassment of motorists.

Furthermore, this situation emphasises the urgency of extending the validity of driver's licences from 5 years to 10 years, a change that would reduce administrative pressure on the system, save costs and align South Africa with global best practice.

We believe that taking immediate and transparent steps to address this issue will restore public confidence and demonstrate the Department's commitment to fair and effective governance.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to your leadership on this matter.

Yours sincerely



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**Stefanie Fick**  
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**OUTA – Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse**  
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