



MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA HOUSES

FROM: THABISO MOLELEKWA (SANTACO SPOKESPERSON)

SUBJECT: SANTACO TO LAUNCH THE TAXI INDUSTRY CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (TICFR)

DATE: 07th APRIL 2020

The South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) will be launching the Taxi Industry Coronavirus Relief Fund (TICRF) on Tuesday, 07th April 2020. The launch of the fund is predicated by the fact that the Taxi industry, which is not subsidised, unlike other transport providers, has been facing several challenges since the start of the lockdown. The fund is to be managed by independent professional fund managers, legal and audit firms to ensure that each rand raised is for the benefit of all beneficiaries i.e., drivers, queue marshals, rank managers, and taxi owners.

Mr. Philip Taaibosch, the SANTACO President, says, "In our quest to maintain social distancing and save lives, we recognize that our members are losing income and their livelihood is severely compromised. We have taken this proactive step to establish a fund that will cushion the blow to our members. At the same time, they continue to fight this virus from entering our townships and villages where our most vulnerable people are residing."

"We call upon all stakeholders to the taxi industry such as food retailers, taxi dealerships, tyres, and parts manufacturers, banks, and other industry players to come together with the taxi industry and contribute to the fund. This is crucial in ensuring essential services are taken to work and commuters that keep the economy of the country going," added Mr. Phillip Taaibosch, the SANTACO President.

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The fund will be managed by SKX, Deklerk Mandelstam Incorporated and Ncube Incorporated have been appointed to manage the fund and provide professional administration services. The funders have been given a clear unfiltered instructions to receive funds from donors both from government and the private sector and ensure that the funds are paid directly to the beneficiaries who are Taxi owners, Taxi drivers, Rank managers, Queue Marshals and Taxi association staff. The main objective of the fund is to fundraise financial resources and pass that on to the thousands of beneficiaries who their only source of income is work they do on a daily basis in the taxi industry. The fund is not aimed at enriching or bringing any operator to profitability but to assist members who due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the inherent lockdown they are unable to work and therefore have no income, the fund will also assist those who are providing transport during this very difficult time, ensuring that essential workers and community members continue to reach their desired destinations.

The Taxi industry remains committed to provide transport services in a safe, affordable and sustainable manner. The industry prouds itself as the majority transporter of the commuting public at about 70%. We remain committed to fulfilling this duty as our contribution in the development and transformation of of our people. We declare that Our People Shall Move no matter what challenges and difficulties we meet as the industry.

The public will be notified once the applications for the fund are open, the application will allow beneficiaries to apply and after verification of the membership and employment credentials with Taxi association, and verification of identity through the home affairs portal, verification and confirmation of the banking details. The audit firm will then make sure all compliance and rules of the fund have been followed. Then the agreed amount will be paid directly to the beneficiary.

As the Taxi industry we call upon government and the private sector to contribute to the fund and make sure that we support our people.

Support and Donations can be channeled to:

**Taxi Industry Coronavirus Relief Fund c/o
DeKlerk Mandelstam Incorporated
ABSA
Trust Account number: 0104 325 0805
Branch Code: 632005
Reference No: S00615**

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About SANTACO

The South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) was formed in 2001 with the assistance of government to be the umbrella body to represent all taxi operators in the Republic, the Organisation has structures in all nine provinces and regional structures, with over a thousand taxi associations under membership. The Taxi industry is the majority transporter of over 70% of the commuting public daily (estimated at 16 million passengers daily).

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