

# Road freight body enters e-toll fray

The Road Freight Association (RFA) has filed papers in the Pretoria High Court in an attempt to join the legal proceedings against the implementation of e-tolling in Gauteng, scheduled for April 30.



If granted permission, the association will join legal proceedings brought by the Opposition to Urban Tolling Alliance, South African Vehicle Renting and Leasing Association, Quadpara Association of South Africa and the South African National Consumer Union against as Amicus Curiae (Friend of the Court).

The RFA application is scheduled for hearing tomorrow.

The association argues, among other things, that freight operators are being charged a disproportionate tariff when compared with other road users. "We believe this is unfair and unreasonable to our members," said RFA spokesperson, Gavin Kelly.

The body will further contend, if its application is granted in court, that the secondary routes are not an alternative for large trucks and heavy road freight vehicles, as these roads were not built to accommodate these vehicles. Freight vehicles are thus being forced to use the toll roads and pay the excessive tolls.

Meanwhile, the Federation of Unions of South Africa is seeking an urgent meeting with President Jacob Zuma over the e-toll saga.

## Massive opposition

The e-tolling debacle had been unfolding for the past few months with objections coming from a number of organisations.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions plans to go on a national strike again on April 30 against the same issue but also against labour brokers.

SA's biggest labour federation filed a Section 77 notice on April 16, which will enable workers to engage in protected protest action in the form of a national stay-away.

The Automobile Association this week objected to plans by the South African National Roads Agency (Sanral) to establish a

dedicated traffic police unit, saying it could be construed as the establishment of a private army for the sole purpose of toll enforcement.

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