

O. R. TAMBO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ADVISES ON POSSIBLE DISRUPTIONS IF PLANNED TAXI STRIKE GOES AHEAD

KEMPTON PARK, 19 March 2018 – Management of O. R. Tambo International Airport has advised passengers travelling to the airport on Tuesday 20 March of possible disruptions to road access by protesting taxi drivers.

Spokesperson Leigh Gunkel-Keuler says the airport has received unconfirmed reports of plans for protest action that would start from as early as 2am on Tuesday. She says this protest action could involve attempts to obstruct the R21 and R24 freeways as well as rail links with the objective of disrupting access to the airport.

“We would advise passengers, especially those taking early flights, to anticipate delays and leave earlier for the airport than they would under normal circumstances,” says Gunkel-Keuler.

The possible blockading of the R21 and R24 freeways would precede other protest action by taxi associations which has received the necessary approvals from local authorities. Any blockade of the freeways would not be part of the approved plans for protest marches and processions to the offices of the Ekurhuleni metro.

The aim of the protest action is to highlight grievances of the Ekurhuleni Taxi Industry (ETI), under the Ekurhuleni leadership of both the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) and the National Taxi Alliance (NTA), against the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality. The groups plan to protest what they say are delays in the roll-out of the Harambee Bus Rapid Transport System.

Gunkel-Keuler says contingency plans will be activated in the event of blockades in order to minimise possible disruption to access to the airport precinct.

ENDS

Media enquiries:

EMPD spokesperson: Chief-Superintendent Wilfred Kgasago (082 607 8125).

Leigh Gunkel-Keuler, Senior Manager Corporate Affairs, O.R. Tambo International Airport
Mobile: 062 868 5670
E-mail: Leigh.Gunkel-Keuler@airports.co.za

Tel +27 921 6911 Fax +27 11 390 1012

Administrator Office, Kempton Park, Gauteng, South Africa, 1627

Private Bag X1, O.R. Tambo International Airport, Kempton Park, Gauteng, South Africa, 1627

www.airports.co.za

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Tel +27 921 6911 Fax +27 11 390 1012

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