

# COSATU Gauteng, civil society and mass democratic movement press statement on the e-tolls and labour brokering campaign

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## **E-Tolls**

COSATU in Gauteng with Mass Democratic Movement and Civil Society are united in one voice in rejecting the Gauteng E-Toll system. The system is unfair and unjustified to the people of the province and the country at large and in particular to the poor and the working class.

We believe that there are better ways and means in which the state could improve the roads and its maintenance than for them to toll the roads, which amounts to privatization of the public goods for profit at our expense and to those of the poor and the society in general.

We are calling for Government to reconsider its current position and to consider various proposals provided in various engagements with them. We reject absolutely government's resolve to proceed with the project which has no support and buy-in from the community and the masses of our people.

We will be embarking upon series of protest and demonstration as a form of action to highlight to the state and to government that this system is unacceptable and it has no support across the communities and all sectors of our community, as follows:

## **24 May 2013**

There will be blockade of the free-ways and in particular targeting the following roads in the Johannesburg area. We will gather at COSATU House in 110 Jorrisen street from 07h30 and intending to leave at about 08h30 and proceed to join M1North up until N1North and off ramp at Olifantsfontein off ramp and join N1 south up until Nasrec interchange and join N12 and thereafter M2 north up until we join the M1 north and off ramp at Smith Street.

## **31 May 2013**

The blockade will be targeting Ekurhuleni freeways and we will gather next to Mbhoro Church next to Hatfield Stadium at Reef Street from about 07h30 and intend to leave at about 08h30 and join Heidelberg road and join N3 North and join N12 North and join R24 North and join R21 North up until we off-ramp at Nelmapius off ramp and join R21 South back to R24 South and to N12 South and N3 South back to Heidelberg road.

## 10 June 2013

We are going to have a massive Stay-away and a march in the province of Gauteng which will be hosted by Johannesburg. The march will be to demand the scrapping of the e-tolls and also banning of the labour brokers.

The details of where and who will the march be targeting will be announced in due course.

## Prayer Service

We are also going to organize series of church prayers across the province and the details of such will be communicated in due course after planning has been concluded in this regard.

## What then?

We are hoping that the state and government will respond positively to our call for consideration of alternative mechanisms for the payment of the current debt and also on how to fund the future roads improvement and maintenance.

We are also planning other massive demonstration and blockade of all the roads in the province and further stay-away across the province in the event that the government does not listen to us.

Issued jointly by the following organizations

- **Congress of South African Trade Unions,**
- **Congress of South African Students,**
- **South African Student Congress,**
- **South African National Civic Organization,**
- **United Association of Taxi Forum,**
- **South African Catholic Bishops Conference Justice and Peace,**
- **South African Council of Churches,**
- **Bikers Against E-toll,**
- **Treatment Action Campaign,**
- **National Association of National School Governing Bodies,**
- **National Taxi Forum.**

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