

## No new e-tolls for Gauteng roads

By <u>Genevieve Quintal</u> 21 Feb 2017

Gauteng premier David Makhura on Monday assured citizens that any new roads built in the province would not have e-tolls.



JMK via Wikimedia Commons

He said the provincial government would not make the same mistakes as before.

"We are mobilising resources for public transport infrastructure in ways that will ensure we do not commit the same mistakes. We can't build roads and only later inform citizens that they must pay. In fact, there will be no e-tolls on our new roads," he announced during his state of the province address in Randfontein.

## "Only solution from national level"

Makhura admitted that the advisory panel into the socioeconomic effect of e-tolls provided no solution. "We tried our best. The ultimate solution can only come from national level," he said.

Gauteng motorists owe about R9.4bn in unpaid e-toll bills.

Recently, the Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (Outa) said it was seeking clarity from the South African National Roads

Agency Limited (Sanral) on whether it intended to go ahead with civil and criminal cases against motorists.

The organisation said it understood Sanral was preparing to pursue judgments against some of the estimated 2.9-million Gauteng motorists who were not paying e-tolls.

## Legal clarity

Sanral has said it is important to get legal clarity given the conflicting information regarding the legality of tolling.

Outa was engaging with Sanral over a "test case" that could provide clarity regarding the liability of Gauteng motorists who owe the agency money for tolls.

On Monday, Makhura said the Gauteng government would continue to engage the government at national level to ensure residents' interests were represented.

Source: BDpro

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