

Media Statement

For Immediate Release

7 March 2024

NBCRFLI PARTICIPATES IN THE INAUGURAL TRUCK DRIVER SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY AND WELLNESS.

The National Secretary of the National Bargaining Council for the Road Freight and Logistics industry (NBCRFLI), Musa Ndlovu said it was about time all role-players in the Trucking Industry recognised the vital contribution truckers make in our economy and that their health and safety cannot take a back seat.

“If we are to ensure sustainable prosperity for the industry, the well-being of the truck drivers should be a priority across the board. Without truck drivers, the economy stops” said Ndlovu.

Mr. Ndlovu was speaking as a panellist at the Truck Driver Safety and Wellness Symposium themed “Your wellness is our concern”, on Thursday, 07 March 2024, at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre in Boksburg.

Mr. Ndlovu added that while talks of collaboration and amalgamation of resources to address the challenges of safety and wellness faced by truck drivers were a step in the right direction, it was important that existing health and wellness initiatives for truck drivers were given the necessary support, referring to Trucking Wellness.

Mr. Ndlovu used the platform to highlight the contribution NBCRFLI has and continues to make towards the health and wellness of truck drivers through Trucking Wellness

and the affordable health insurance benefit administered on behalf of Council by health care provider, Affinity Health.

Trucking Wellness, formerly known as Trucking Against AIDS, has made significant progress in the fight against HIV&AIDS in the RFL Industry, especially amongst long-distance truck drivers, commercial sex workers and those at risk such as driver spouses and partners.

Located strategically across major trucking routes and truck stops, twenty Trucking Wellness Clinics and a fleet of mobile wellness clinics have saved lives and impacted truck drivers in the health realm.

Since inception, **978 269** truck drivers and women at risk have been reached through training and education. Of these, a total of **608 860** have been treated and **91 947** have been treated for sexually transmitted diseases. An estimated **33,2 million** condoms have been distributed.

The Trucking Wellness initiative is a sterling example of a successful and sustainable public-private partnership. It is funded by the Council and supported by donor organisations (Daimler Trucks Southern Africa, N3TC & Reef Tankers) and several provincial health departments.

Mr. Ndlovu pleaded with Road Freight and Logistics Industry to support the Trucking Wellness to secure the safety, health and wellness of truck drivers and sustainability of the Industry.

ENDS

Issued by NBCRFLI

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