

## **MANDATORY TEMPORARY IMPORT DECLARATIONS FOR FOREIGN-REGISTERED VEHICLES ENTERING SOUTH AFRICA**

**Maseru, Lesotho – 30th April 2026** - The Government of the Republic of South Africa, through the South African Revenue Service (SARS), has commenced implementation of mandatory temporary import declarations for all foreign-registered vehicles entering South Africa. This requirement is firmly grounded in South African national legislation and is being applied uniformly across all ports of entry.

While this requirement is not new in law, enforcement has historically been inconsistent particularly for member states of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU). SARS has now moved toward full and uniform enforcement. Full implementation across all SACU Member States is scheduled to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026, and this phased approach is intended to allow adequate time for stakeholder engagement and public sensitization.

To facilitate a smooth transition, SARS has introduced an online declaration platform known as the Traveler Management System (TMS), which has been operational in pilot phase since 2022. This system enables travelers to complete their declarations in advance, either through a mobile application or a web-based interface, thereby significantly reducing processing times at ports of entry. Travelers are strongly encouraged to make use of this platform before approaching the border.

For those without access to smartphones or digital platforms, SARS has made provisions for assisted declaration processes at the border, ensuring that no traveler is left behind in this transition.

Upon completing the declaration process at the border, travelers will be issued a Temporary Import Permit (TIP), valid for a period of six (6) months. This permit is



recognised at all ports of entry and exit. Travelers are required to retain the permit within the vehicle at all times and to present it upon request by the relevant authorities.

SARS does not anticipate significant congestion at border posts, provided that travelers complete their pre-declarations through the TMS platform prior to arrival. With traveler information already captured in the system, the issuance of Temporary Import Permits is expected to be a swift and efficient process.

It is also important to note that existing diplomatic privileges and concessions remain fully intact for VIPs and accredited diplomats. However, support staff accompanying such dignitaries are required to ensure that the necessary declarations are completed on their behalf.

In response to these developments, Revenue Services Lesotho will be embarking on a nationwide sensitization campaign to ensure that all travelers, whether frequent commuters, business travelers, or occasional visitors are informed of the new requirements, the applicable timelines, and how to access and use the TMS platform.

We urge all Basotho travelers and vehicle owners to take note of these requirements and to act well ahead of the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 enforcement date. Further details on the sensitization campaign and guidance on accessing the TMS platform will be communicated through all available public channels in the coming weeks.

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For clarification, please contact RSL's PR Desk: 62112502/58839868