

Don't miss:

"Keeping our economy pumping"
Transport Forum 4 June 2026
at 09h00

<https://www.transportsig.com/events/calendarx/transport-forum/4-june-2026-saepa>



NEWS DELIVERY

May 2026

GARRY'S MESSAGE

Our pricing dilemma

We're all aware of the uncertainty around Iran causing ongoing disruption to international services, especially those transiting Middle East hubs.

It's not just cargo flights – delays to or cancellation of passenger services also affect cargo as belly space is widely used by express logistics.

In addition to service interruptions there is the impact of fluctuations in the price of fuel - aviation fuel for aircraft and diesel for collection and last mile delivery.

Members are reporting significant rises in cost per parcel, rises that cannot be ignored nor absorbed.

Since the situation is fluid, members find themselves on the horns of a dilemma.

They could slightly revise prices or surcharges weekly. That means the increase is more modest but the

frequency irritates clients who can't rely on a price and see the rates rising frequently.

If, however, to reduce the frequency of revisions, a member opts instead for a monthly or quarterly increase the quantum is more painful for the customer.

What do members think is the optimal choice in the current situation?

AI and Robots

Two stories in this edition reflect the inroads robotics and AI are making in our industry. This underscores the need for continual skills development to complement advancing technology rather than being threatened by it.



Garry Marshall

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garry".

"Keeping our economy pumping"

Make sure you attend this SAEPA annual event. Diarise 4 June to dial up zoom and visit Transport Forum when it hosts a Special Interest Group devoted to express logistics and industry issues deserving management attention. The event runs from 09h00 to 13h00.

Our services captured the imagination of South Africa during the Covid era when the authorities described them as indispensable. In those difficult times it was express logistics that kept South Africa's economy alive and pumping - to the benefit of business and commerce, agriculture, the general public and government.

Senior industry presenters will ensure that our 4 June Special Interest Group event focuses on key industry issues deserving of management attention, including:

- **Middle East war disruption to the industry** –Herman Venter MD DHL)
- **Driving the Future of Transport Through an Integrated Talent Value Chain** – Dr Juliette Fourie, Evalex
- **Cross border / African standardization** – Nelson Teixeira MD FedEx SA
- **The impact of e-commerce on the last mile industry** – Diederick Stopforth MD Internet Express
- **Introducing the African Supply Chain Excellence Awards** – Liesl De Wet, ASCEA

<https://www.transportsig.com/events/calendarx/transport-forum/4-june-2026-saepa>



Transport Forum promotes open discussion of matters of concern to the transport sector.

The organisation has enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship with SAEPA for almost a decade.

Its Special Interest Groups attract participation from industry and commerce, agriculture, consumers, research institutions, regulatory bodies and government at all levels.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Unparalleled Excellence and Innovation

The Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards (ASCEA) is delighted with a 49% increase of entries year on year. Submissions have been received from across North, West, East and Southern Africa, reflecting growing pan-African engagement in supply chain excellence.

Logistics is intrinsic to the modern economy. In the case of the Republic, it contributes over US \$15,5 billion this year according to Mordor Intelligence. The transport and logistics network is the lifeblood that keeps our domestic economy pumping and allows South Africa's mining, manufacturing and agricultural sectors to remain globally competitive.

Valuations of the African continent's logistics suggest a figure in excess of US \$ 160 billion. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) connects 55 African nations and aims for lower cross-border tariffs and improved logistics efficiency to unlock further massive opportunities for intra-continental trade.



"This year's submissions reflect the extraordinary breadth and maturity of supply chain innovation taking place across Africa,"

says ASCEA's Jenny Froome. "Entries span sectors embracing healthcare, manufacturing, mining, logistics, transport, technology, procurement, sustainability and humanitarian operations. They reflect initiatives ranging from digital transformation and operational excellence to skills development, collaboration and infrastructure improvement. The diversity of both industries and geographies highlights the increasingly strategic role that logistics plays in driving resilience, competitiveness and economic growth across our continent."

Diarise now and be sure to attend the Awards Banquet on 19 August to celebrate breathtaking innovation and excellence in our industry.



SAVE THE DATE

Africa Supply Chain Excellence Awards (ASCEA) Dinner

Wednesday 19th August 2026

Time Square Hotel, Time Square, Pretoria, South Africa

BY THE INDUSTRY, FOR THE INDUSTRY



Subscribe:

It's FREE



NEWS DELIVERY

Keep the conversation going...



Email your Name & Surname to info@saepa.org.za with Yes, I would like to subscribe to **SAEPA News Delivery** in the subject line

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

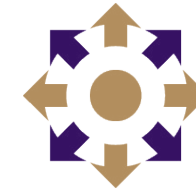
The ESG Greenprint: Capital • Capability • Commitment

Tuesday, 23 June 2026

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport: South Africa (CILTSA) Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) conference.

“SAEPA members can’t afford to miss this conference,” recommends Catherine Larkin, CILTSA Executive Director. She points out that the

courier sector is one of the most vehicle-intensive industries in South Africa. With last-mile delivery fleets running daily urban routes, the pressure to decarbonise is mounting fast. The conference offers direct insight into green fleet funding – exactly how to fund the shift to cleaner vehicles – as retail and e-commerce companies tighten their supplier ESG requirements.



The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport

“The courier and express parcel sector operates at high volume, high frequency, and high visibility making ESG a commercial imperative.”

www.ciltsa.events/5th-ciltsa-esg-conference/



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LEGACY TO LEADERSHIP

SAPICS – The Professional Body for Supply Chain Management – invites members of SAEPA – an affiliate partner – to register for its 48th Annual Conference.

Venue: Century City Conference Centre Date 19 – 22 July 2026

https://conference.sapics.org/registration/

The event features:

- Expert speakers on the latest supply chain trends and best practices
- Interactive sessions to address real-world challenges and opportunities
- Networking opportunities with industry leaders, peers, suppliers, and potential partners
- Innovations that can improve efficiency, sustainability, and resilience in your organisation

For further information approach Clare Fincham, Marketing Manager Clare@sapics.org.za

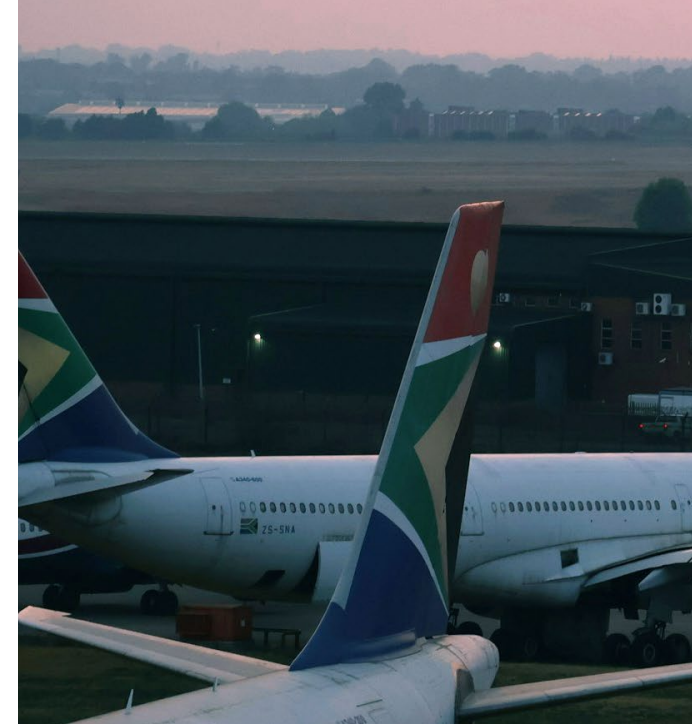


SAPICS was founded in 1966 as the South African Production and Inventory Control Society, hence the acronym. Today it is known as SAPICS – The Professional Body for Supply Chain Management.

It is dedicated to elevating, educating, and empowering professionals.

THE BIG PICTURE

During March 2026, African airlines posted a 7.0% year-on-year increase in demand for air cargo. This was the strongest rise of all regions. It compares with a global performance of 4.8%.



DHL Express introduces AI-powered item identification



DHL Express has introduced AI-powered item identification for international shipping.

This innovative capability uses advanced computer vision to analyse a customer-generated photo of a shipment item and instantly generate a precise, customs-compliant description.

The customer simply photographs the item they intend to ship using any standard smartphone or connected device. The AI system processes the image via a server-side computer vision model, classifies the object,

and generates a structured, customs-compliant item description aligned with international documentation standards — all within seconds.

The suggested description is then presented to the customer, who can easily review, edit, or override the entry before submitting the shipment.

This deployment marks a significant step forward in applied AI within logistics, representing the first-time item identification has been seamlessly integrated into a live, customer-facing international express booking flow at scale.



A healthy workforce, now affordable

Introducing DNA Wellness Service, a partnership between Workforce Healthcare and SAEPA. Providing flexible, affordable healthcare solutions for employees and their families in SAEPA member companies.

Gold Tier

R149 (Principal), R139 (Dependant)

- Access to 140 MediRite Pharmacy Clinics nationwide
- Assistance from nurses or pharmacists
- Hassle-free experience with set fee deducted from salary
- Extensive coverage of various ailments

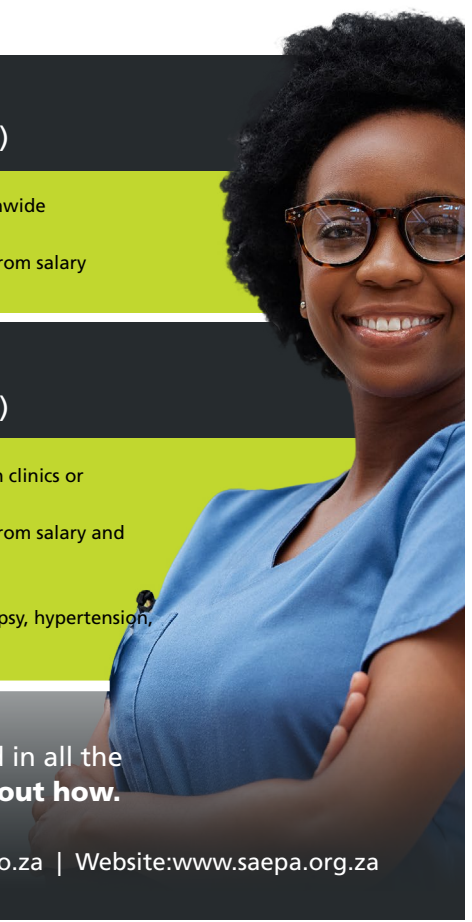
Platinum Tier

R175 (Principal), R165 (Dependant)

- Priority access to Workforce Healthcare walk-in clinics or MediRite Pharmacy Clinics
- Hassle-free experience with set fee deducted from salary and no cash exchange required
- Extensive coverage of various ailments
- Coverage for chronic conditions: asthma, epilepsy, hypertension, diabetes type 1 oral treatment, cardiac failure

Keep your team healthy and supported in all the ways that matter. **Contact us to find out how.**

Cell: 083 325 4247 | Email: sharon@saepa.co.za | Website: www.saepa.org.za





Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) New QCTO Skills Programmes for Delivery Drivers

SAEPA has developed 4 x 8 credit skills programmes for drivers. This was done in conjunction with subject matter experts from industry, and funded by Transport Education Training Authority (TETA). This is in response to industry requirements and requests.

The QCTO pre-verification workshop took place on 20 May and was well attended by SMEs and other stakeholders interested in these skills programmes. The next step will be final verification of these Skills Programmes with the QCTO. Once finalised these will be posted onto the QCTO website.

Programme	Purpose: Equip the driver with the skills
Trip Planner	to execute effectively the role of "Delivery trip planner and execution specialist"
Driver Wellness	for the role of brand representation custodian. It balances operational compliance with a holistic approach to mental and physical health, ensuring learners can uphold brand integrity and maintain the personal resilience required for long-term success.
Customer Service Champion	to execute effectively the role of customer satisfaction champion.
Driver Technology	to execute effectively the role of an appropriate technology user

Institute for Customs and Freight Forwarding (ICFF) Road Show



Back row (l to r): Natasha Colyn (Metro Minds); Samantha Dorrington (Metro Minds); Dave Walls (ICFF Member); Lebogang Letsoalo (Vice Chairperson ICFF); Ingrid du Buisson (CEO ICFF); Yolandi Dercksen (outgoing ICFF Chairperson but still ICFF Board Member); Strini Reddy (ICFF Board Member); Devlyn Naidoo (ICFF Chairperson), Japie Nel (SAQA Professional Bodies)
Front row (l to r): Natasha Badenhorst (Pomona Freight Park Group); Nicole Pillay (SkillsHaus); Catherine Larkin (CILTSA); Maxeen Naidoo (ICFF Member); Tuelo Mogashoa (ICFF Board); Martine Maraschin (SAEPA); Vilochanee Naidoo (CIPS)

The ICFF held their annual roadshow on Thursday, 14 May at the ABSA Equinox Campus in Sandton. Ingrid du Buisson presented the updated Professional Body Ecosystem to those in attendance and confirmed that the recognition of the ICFF as a professional body should be finalised by SAQA within the next 1-2 months.

The meeting included confirmation of the appointment of the new Chairperson – Mr Devlyn Naidoo.

TETA AI SP Focus Group

An initial focus group for the development of a TETA Artificial Intelligence Skills Programme met on 14 May 2026. The discussions were led by Ms. Mashabane Ouma Ledwaba (Research & Knowledge Unit) and Ms. Mapontsho Ntoule (ETQA Unit).

The meeting gathered stakeholders to explore required AI skills in road freight, forwarding and clearing, and freight handling and to design a sector-focused foundational AI literacy offering.

Participants confirmed the session was exploratory and intended to capture industry input for a credible, fundable training blueprint.

Discussion established a clear need for a foundational AI literacy course prior to specialist tracks.

Industry interested in participating in the development of these SPs should contact Ms. Mashabane Ouma Ledwaba on mashabanel@teta.org.za

TETA Discretionary Grants Update 2026/27

There is still no feedback from TETA regarding the 2026/27 DG applications made in March.

Transport Education Training Authority (TETA)

Chamber Committee Feedback



Simone Felix, Road Freight Chamber Committee Representative

I attended the inaugural meeting of the TETA Chamber Committee on Tuesday, 5 May 2026, as the representative for the Road Freight Sector. One of the main concerns raised by industry representatives was the status of the Indicum licence, as no further information has been provided to the industry regarding the way forward after 10 May 2026, when the current licence agreement comes to an end. The meeting was advised that TETA will revert to a manual system on an interim basis until its internal procurement processes have been finalised.

This means that all learner registrations will need to be processed manually through TETA ETQA. The change is expected to impact all organisations and Skills Development Providers (SDP) seeking to enrol learners for skills programmes or qualifications. It is likely to place additional and unnecessary administrative pressure on organisations and SDPs, particularly in light of the learner enrolment registration deadline of 30 June 2026.

The future of the Dangerous Goods Skills Programme was also raised at the meeting. Industry expressed concern that the transition to QCTO could negatively affect the sector because of delays between the completion of training and the issuing of certification. TETA responded that discussions with the Department of Transport are still ongoing.



Lerato Mapheto, Forwarding & Clearing Chamber Committee Representative

Attending my 1st Chamber Committee Meeting on 4th May as a representative of the Forwarding & Clearing industry was both insightful and informative. The meeting provided some updates on the current sector initiatives, industry developments, and training and workforce development priorities. The meeting provided me with a better understanding of the work that needs to be undertaken by all stakeholders in the Forwarding & Clearing sub-sector. I look forward to contributing to and building strong partnerships with TETA FC and other industry representatives going forward.



Zaid Hartley, Forwarding & Clearing Chamber Committee Representative

Stepping into my first TETA Forwarding and Clearing Chamber Committee meeting on 4 May, the immediate standout was the collective drive to bridge the gap between industry requirements and skills development. This inaugural session taught me just how many intricate, behind-the-scenes activities need to take place to ensure that TETA meets its mandate of ensuring it delivers the necessary support and robust accountability to the industry at large.

As an industry representative for Forwarding & Clearing, my focus is on ensuring that our training frameworks keep pace with rapid operational shifts especially around compliance and data automation, which the global landscape is rapidly gearing toward. I am looking forward to many more learnings, fruitful discussions, and contributing to the strategic growth of our industry.



Simphiwe Rasmeni, Freight Handling Chamber Committee Representative

I attended the inaugural meeting of the Freight Handling Chamber on 12 May 2026. A key concern raised by industry was the enrolment cut-off date for legacy qualifications and skills programmes, particularly those related to Lifting Machine Operators (LMOs). At the time of the meeting, the committee was advised that there had been no further communication from SAQA or the QCTO regarding any extension for the expired legacy qualifications. In addition, many of the skills programmes linked to LMO training have not yet been

Continued on page 8

Transport Education Training Authority (TETA)

Chamber Committee Feedback

redeveloped as QCTO-aligned programmes, which means that after 30 June there will be very few LMO skills programmes available to the industry.

This situation has now become critical, as there is still no feedback from SAQA, the QCTO, or TETA. The development of QCTO programmes can take between 8 and 12 months from initiation to completion. Thereafter, Skills Development Providers (SDPs) would still need to develop the material prior to application to QCTO for accreditation of the programme. This could be a further 12-18 month process. The final timeline for 1 programme can take anything from 24+ month process before training could realistically be made available to industry. Although the meeting indicated that further feedback would be provided at the next meeting in July, this would be too late to address the immediate needs of the sector.



Transport Education Training Authority

Heart of Skills Innovation



Natiesha Karim, Road Freight Chamber Committee Representative

I attended the first Road Freight Chamber Committee meeting for the 2025–2030 term, having previously represented the Road Freight Industry on this committee. My reappointment for the new term is, I believe, highly beneficial to both the industry and the committee, as it provides valuable continuity from the previous term. This enables me to assist in placing matters raised by new committee members into context and provide background on issues tabled for discussion. I am looking forward to this new term and to working with my new colleagues on the committee. I am encouraged by the passion and energy of the new members and am pleased to see that we share the same objective: to drive and improve skills development across the Road Freight Sector, regardless of where we are employed or who appointed us to the committee.

CILTSA Candidacy Programme

Don't just complete a course — earn a qualification AND a professional designation.

Applications are officially open for the 2026 CILTSA Women's Candidacy Programme. This fully-funded initiative offers 16 South African women in logistics, transport, warehousing and supply chain the opportunity to earn an internationally recognised CILT Level 5 Diploma and a professional designation.

If you are a woman in a junior or middle management role with a Matric certificate and at least 5 years of industry experience, this is your chance to accelerate your career.

Don't miss out on mentorship, global best

CANDIDACY PROGRAMME

THE FUTURE OF LOGISTICS LEADERSHIP IS FEMALE

Application Deadline: Friday, 29 May 2026
Final Selections: 17 June 2026

Fully Funded

WHAT YOU EARN:

- Internationally Recognised Qualification
- Professional M&T Designation in Transport & Logistics



Find out more at:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:f7d35554-0f36-4b8c-a582-a86abfd0a1b4>

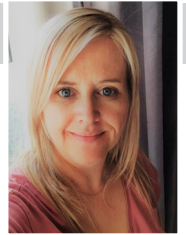
Apply here:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:3814785c-3054-47ba-b053-ab1bc7dc2c80>



ROBOTS AT HANEDA

Japan Airlines is launching a two-year trial at Tokyo Haneda Airport using humanoid robots for ground handling tasks, including cargo handling. The project is designed to combat Japan's severe labour shortages.



It's the month of May, and it feels like its December! Many people that I speak to are talking about being fatigued and having to continuously deal with unexpected challenges affecting their business.

For example, rising fuel prices which in turn, get fed down to our clients. Some entities are being smart about the increases, and this is leading to clients changing service providers to those who can offer better rates. Such is the nature of express logistics, where things can change on a weekly, daily even hourly basis!

We have to adapt and that in itself can be exhausting. For security and safety, adaptability is a key component of creating agile systems. But in the development of these agile systems, we must never forget one of the key components, and that is the human element.

I spent some time last week trying to get hold of a physical person to speak to about a problem I was having with one of my personal service providers. It took about 10 minutes of following useless prompts on the phone, to get to a person, only to be told that they don't deal with that type of query. It was incredibly frustrating, since there was no prompt that dealt with what I needed to sort out. The website and app were both as useless, and don't let me get started on AI agents that are meant to be so helpful! It just highlighted the following key point for me:

We can outsource surface level things to this type of technology, but companies always need to make sure that there is a real live human that someone can contact if they need to. How does this relate to our industry?

"Courier drivers: the last face standing" – I was thinking that our courier drivers or physical agents that spend time speaking to customers, are the face of our companies, they are a place where people who need assistance can come to. We underestimate the power of human connection. When it comes to making safety and security decisions, we cannot just rely on AI information and recommendations, we need the human instinct, the human touch and intuition of when something is going wrong. Technology can be manipulated, and bad actors are gaining so much traction in using it for evil. We need to make sure that our protection strategies include the human element, for that is where we will win the war!



How, let's use the word F.A.C.E –

Forward facing – don't eliminate the human element when connecting with clients, train our client facing staff to be friendly, engaging and give great service. This builds trust and trust helps security.

Adapt – use the new technology as a tool, don't allow it to become the be-all and end all for decision making, continue to use human wisdom as well. Don't be distracted by the new shiny.

Competent – continue to train, develop and upskill staff members, especially in matters of safety e.g. in Dangerous Goods Training, ability to identify hidden Dangerous Goods and suspicious parcels like potential Improvised Incendiary Devices.

Engage – get feedback from your clients about the impact that the changes that you have implemented are having on them. You may think that it is doing such an amazing job and helping clients, where in fact it may be leading to high levels of frustration, to the point where they are considering moving to other service providers. Balance is key.

May you continue to have a FACE for your customers, and don't allow yourselves to become a bloated, nameless corporation, hidden behind layers of technology, when all people want is to be able to talk to a person.