

MEDIA STATEMENT

Attention News Editors/Transport Writers/All Reporters

For immediate release: 13 February 2020

RAILWAY SAFETY REGULATOR CONDUCTS PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INTO THE ROODEPOORT TRAIN ACCIDENT

The Railway Safety Regulator (RSR) wishes to convey its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the passenger who lost his life when PRASA long distance train, Shosholozza Meyl, that was travelling from Cape Town to Johannesburg collided with a Transnet Freight Rail train between Horizon and Princess stations in Roodepoort, Johannesburg at approximately 21h25 last night. Over and above the fatality, one passenger was critically injured and have been admitted to hospital while eight other passengers escaped with minor injuries. The Regulator wishes all the injured a speedy recovery.

The RSR is currently on the scene of the accident to conduct a pre-liminary investigation and can confirm that the passenger train collided with the rear-end of the goods train. Both trains were authorised by the Maraisburg Centralised Traffic Control (CTC). Furthermore, manual authorisation is currently being used as the working method for controlling train movement in this section.

The RSR will release a statement on the preliminary findings into the collision within the next 48 hours.

As the custodian of railway safety in South Africa, the RSR requires that operators notify the Regulator telephonically within 15 minutes in the event of a serious occurrence. In line with Section 38 of the National Railway Safety Regulator Act, a team of inspectors is dispatched to the scene to conduct an onsite preliminary investigation.

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The RSR was established in terms of the National Railway Safety Regulator Act No 16 of 2002 (as amended) to oversee and promote safe railway operations through appropriate support, monitoring and enforcement, guided by an enabling regulatory framework. In the interest of rail safety, RSR also collects and disseminates information relating to safe railway operations to the public by means of rail safety awareness campaigns.

THE RSR'S MANDATE IS TO:

- Oversee safety in railway transport, while operators remain responsible for managing the safety of their operations.
- Develop an appropriate regulatory framework through the development of regulations and standards for safe railway operations.
- Monitor and ensure safety compliance by conducting audits, inspections and occurrence investigations.
- Collect and disseminate information relating to safe railway operations.
- Promote the harmonisation of the railway safety regime of South Africa with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) railway operations.
- Promote improved safety performance in order to promote the use of rail.

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