

Call for referendum on e-tolls

A constitutional law expert has called on the government to hold a referendum on the e-tolls project, according to a report on Wednesday (20 February).

By holding a referendum on the controversial issue, the government would demonstrate an interest in people's opinions on the matter, constitutional law expert Professor Marinus Wiechers told *Beeld* newspaper.

"It is necessary for the government to have a referendum in this instance, particularly because the constitution makes provision for it," he said.

Wiechers said there were no regulations prescribing how a referendum in South Africa should be held.

"People in Gauteng have complained that there has not been enough public consultation on the issue. A referendum would be the most democratic way to determine an outcome," Wiechers said.

Maplakala Motloun, spokesman for the Gauteng premier's office, declined to comment on whether the government might consider a referendum.

The Pretoria High Court on 25 January granted the Opposition to Urban Tolling Alliance (OUTA) leave to appeal its ruling that e-tolls can go ahead.

A date for the appeals court hearing has yet to be set.

Source: *Sapa* via I-Net Bridge