

Notes for Mayor Zandile Gumede for the Transport Month

Acknowledgements

1. October is an important month on our events calendar, firstly it is a month of President OR Tambo our unifier. We use this month to celebrate the life and role of President OR Tambo who unified our people in South Africa, in prison and abroad – both in camps and international community. He was a glue that held our people together until the democratic breakthrough. In his memory, we call for the unity of our people especially in the transport industry.
2. Secondly, this month is a Cancer Month, we use it for the awareness. We encourage men and women to do regular cancer check-ups, especially African women. We will be partnering with government and NGOs teaching about cancer.
3. Most importantly, this month is the birthday month of Mama Albertina Sisulu. Our government has declared this year as the year of Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. She was an activist, a mobiliser and a leader of society. We will be having a celebration, which we will announce soon. We will be inviting women and men to celebrate her role in the struggle of our liberation.
4. As the government of South Africa, we use this month as Transport month. National Transport Month is an important awareness campaign to raise awareness of the vital role that transport plays in our society for the betterment of communities and the economy.

This year's campaign is designed to encourage the participation of a number of influential groups in highlighting this role

5. The eThekweni Municipality kicked-started this National Transport Month campaign this week by officially unveiling a state of the art office facility located within the Chesterville/Clermont MNR Umlazi rank at the Warwick Junction together with the MEC of Transport, Community Liaison and Safety Thomas Kaunda.
6. The eThekweni Transport Authority (ETA), in its quest to upgrade its public transport infrastructure and facilities in the City, has a massive ongoing programme to upgrade all existing public transport facilities while at the same time investing in the construction of new facilities in areas that are in dire need of such facilities.
7. The objective of the upgrade of the facilities is to improve the conditions under which both the operators and the commuters and other rank users experience and to bring dignity to the people and improve the conditions under which our customers travel and the operators work under.
8. The **University Avenue Taxi Rank** did not have a rank office and it was imperative to provide one in order to ensure that the taxi operators operate in a proper manner in line with the City and Government's plans to formalise and empower the minibus taxi industry.
9. The following Taxi Associations are using the rank:

- Durban South Long distance;
- Umlazi MNR;
- Clairemont KwaDabeka;
- Folweni.

The scope of the work under this contract comprises:

- New office and kitchen ;
- structural steel mezzanine and timber boarding;
- Male and female Ablutions;

The cost of the project was R 1. 5 million.

10. The project duration was 6 months. During the construction, 5 people were employed within ward 28 as Local Labour including the Community Liaison Officer. As part of the Community Participation Goals (CPGs) – subcontracting was also done and all non-specialised work was sub-contracted to local subcontractors, creating jobs and opportunities for small and micro enterprise development.

11. We are pledging our support to the Transport Industry and we urge citizens to take heed of the campaign messages and rally behind the transformation of society through the delivery of safe and reliable public transport for all.

12. Transport for the public must be reliable, punctual, safe and affordable. It must be accessible to people with disabilities and elderly.

We want our children to travel in a safe schools' transport, our children must not die on their way to school due to negligent.

13. We use this National Transport Month is an important awareness campaign to raise awareness of the vital role that transport plays in our society for the betterment of communities and the economy. This year's campaign is designed to encourage the participation of a number of influential groups in highlighting this role.

14. Lastly, we urge communities to protect our infrastructure. We must not vandalise our own public facilities. We must ensure that we keep our public toilets clean and our taxi rank so that there is hygiene. We must not burn our buses or trains during protests or any other event. Destruction of property is a set back and barbaric.

15. In conclusion, we call for peace and stability in the taxi industry. We encourage tolerance and cool heads. Our differences can be resolved through dialogue instead of guns. Nobody deserves to die. KZN must not be known as a death province, even the New York Times is writing about killings in KZN. This must end. We are all brothers, let's find each other and talk instead of killing. As Africans we must stop killing each other over transport issues or politics. Let's learn to love one another – Nina beSilo.

Those who break the law shall face the might of the law. No one must Facebook or WhatsApp and drive. Stop using your phone whenever you are driving, don't drink and drive. If you are tired you must rest, let us be safe – Asiphephe.

I Thank you

