

Remarks by Mayor ZRT Gumede at the Launch of Transport Month 2017 at JL Dube Stadium of Inanda – 05 October 2017

Programme Director,

MEC of Transport and Safety Liaison, Hon Mxolisi Thomas Kaunda,

HOD of the Department,

Members of parliament,

Councillors present,

Members of the community,

Representatives of different sectors in transport,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sanibonani,

The month of October is an important month in our calendar because it is the birthday month of President OR Tambo one of the longest serving President of the ANC and the founding member of the ANCYL. It is in this month that we celebrate the class of 1944 led by Anton Lembede that founded a militant youth wing of the people – which President OR Tambo describe as a “Young Lions.”

What is more special about this year is that, President OR Tambo would have turned 100 years and it is for this reason that our government found it fitting that we declare this year- as a year of OR Tambo. Long live his spirit, long live!

What is of significant to us, is that since 2005 our government has always used the month of October as a month dedicated to transport. Transport is not only about road safety and warning people. Transport is about moving goods and people to point A to B. Unfortunately, when people die on our street they don't arrive at point B.

This year we will be focusing on Road Safety campaign and preaching one and the same message – let us be road safety. Secondly we want to use this month to encourage people to enter this sector for economic reason and deal with challenges faced by people within this sector. We will also use this month to condemn the killings in the taxi industry. We want to also condemn the killing in the meter cabb industry between UBER drivers and other meter cabs association. In Durban we have not heard of any death as yet but we must act quickly.

Programme director,

Transport is an important nerve of our economy, we want to encourage black people to enter this industry.

We must not only be known for taxi industry but let us explore other things from public transport, air transport, sea or water transport, rail transport and goods transport.

This sector has many opportunities for business and employment. When we speak of radical economic transformation, we are equally saying black people must benefit within the sector. When we purchase buses and cars we must ensure that we have black people who will benefit in terms of business, skills, servicing the car and supply of parts. Our people must benefit from the value chain, as government we must enforce transformation by ensuring that our do benefit. The value chain of transport also includes oil, diesel and petrol. We encourage you to look beyond what you know and begin to explore all the opportunities that are available.

Durban is blessed with a busiest harbour in Africa and I would like to encourage you to explore all opportunities that are in the harbour. Tomorrow we will be having Operation Phakisa event and the President will be here in Durban to speak about opportunities in our oceans. We encourage our people to take advantage of opportunities in the sea.

Programme Director,

Before I call the MEC to join me on the stage, it is important that I remind you to respect the rules of the roads. Don't cross the road when it is green and do not cross where you are not supposed to cross. We are tired of losing people on the road due to road carnages, we need to put on our safety belt and also do not drive with cellphones. Durban should consider a bylaw that will ensure that all those found driving with cellphones be arrested and their cellphones be taken away. We must run this public awareness but also enforce bylaws. We will be increasing road blocks in the city to deal with those who break the law.

Programme Director,

Let me take this opportunity and welcome the MEC of Transport who is a former Provincial secretary and chairperson of the ANCYL - a young lion of OR Tambo.

He is the member of parliament and MEC. He has been a councillor in eThekweni Council. Before being appointed to his ministerial position, he was a chairperson of the transport portfolio committee in the provincial legislature. He is from Inanda, am pleased to introduce and welcome MEC Mxolisi Thomas Kaunda. Siyabonga