



MEDIA STATEMENT BY MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT A MEDIA BRIEFING HELD IN DURBAN TRURO HOUSE ON MONDAY 23 MARCH 2009 AT 3H30 PM ADDRESSING A CHALLENGE FACING PUBLIC TRANSPORT (REMANT ALTON) WITHIN ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media, I thank you for attending today's press briefing at such short notice which comes amid challenges facing the bus service rendered by Remant Alton on behalf of EThekweni Municipality. There has been an enormous public outcry on this matter where a number of commuters particularly workers and scholars were left stranded due to the operational challenges facing Remant Alton. It is on this score that provincial government's intervention was crucial in addressing this matter.

It is regrettable that this dreadful period has left passengers stranded for a number of days and the inconvenience it has created has been unbearable. We therefore would like to send our sincere apology to the members of the public and further thank them for their patience in this regard. The support given by the taxi industry has been tremendous.

In relation to this issue the government of KwaZulu-Natal has intervened in addressing the matter and has further facilitated the reinstatement of the bus operations after several bilaterals with all parties concerned.

In light of this ladies and gentlemen the bus operations will be fully functional with effect from Sunday 29th of March 2009, and as government we remain confident that the EThekweni Municipality will render a bus service that is efficient, effective, reliable and safe at all times for the benefit of our commuters hence we say working together we can do more.

A background to this matter reveals that the source of the problem emanated when Remant Alton gave notice to the municipality that it was facing financial problems. Some of its workers had gone on strike. The company also did not have sufficient buses to run the service. They further gave notice that they require 30 days within which to deal with these matters.

The Exco of the municipality then reacted by placing them on breach of the contract and gave them 14 days to remedy the situation. However the parties have been given an ultimatum to permanently resolve any outstanding issue on these matters within the next three months.

In conclusion members of the media our mandate as the provincial government is to provide a transportation system that addresses the needs of our commuters and furthermore promote public participation in all matters of governance.

ENDS

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