



### **MEDIA INVITE**

TO : ALL MEDIA  
DATE : 8 May 2012  
ATTENTION : NEWS EDITORS/REPORTERS AND PR WIRE

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### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATIONS IN PORT SHEPSTONE RESUME WITHOUT ANY HICCUPS**

Yesterday (Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2012) after being halted since 2010 for a review by the Department of Transport, buses in Port Shepstone resumed operations with out any hiccups.

For the first time in the history of public transport the Department of Transport in KZN has implemented the first ever combined bus services in the area of Port Shepstone. This Bus service is made up of taxi operators and small bus operators that came together to form a bus service.

Since the year 2010 the area of Port Shepstone has been without buses which led to vigorous research by the Department of Transport on a needs analysis regarding public transport. The Department deemed fit to develop a policy that empowers small bus and taxi operators and such was endorsed by the KZN Legislature.

MEC Mchunu on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012 introduced for the first time the Ugu Transport Services. Mchunu outlined the expectations from the this bus service

**"As government we are working towards making the Public Transport industry an industry with economic power. For the first time we have united the bus and taxi industry to provide a transport service to the people of Port Shepstone. It is through intense meetings and discussions that it took two years to complete this process. We wanted a long term plan that would be sustainable. The bus fare would not increase; it would remain the same as it was two years ago. The employees of the old bus service will be re-employed for the new bus company. This contract agreement will be valid for the next 7 years. For the financial year 2012/2013 the department will subsidize the company with an amount of R3.89 million. The approach that will be**

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**used will be a staggered approach separated by two weeks. Initially we will start with 20 buses and a rollout of more buses will progress gradually. I would like to applaud the community of Port Shepstone for not resorting to protest action when the buses stopped two years ago but you waited and today the fruits of waiting have yielded good results, said Mchunu.**

Ends

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