

Official Newsletter of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport

August/September 2005

## International Technology Transfer Conference promotes...

# A better life for all

**A**s the 2nd Africa Technology Transfer Conference opened in Pietermaritzburg, the Capital of KwaZulu-Natal Province, on Tuesday September 20, dynamic leaders of the host organisation, Mr Bheki Cele and Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa, spelt out unambiguously the strategic importance of the conference, which has attracted some of the world's foremost academics and captains in the transport sector.

Mr Cele, MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, was passionate about the conference, which brought glory to South Africa and has firmly shifted the focus on his department and KwaZulu-Natal, giving the province welcome exposure and a boost as an international conference destination.

The four-day 2nd Africa Technology Transfer Conference was held at the Head Office of the Department of Transport in Pietermaritzburg. The conference was a sequel to the first international gathering which took place in Arusha, Tanzania, in 2001.

The theme of the conference was *Transportation Technology Transfer for Africa's Renaissance*, which underpins, most vividly, the objective of promoting the effective use of technology to uplift poor and marginalised communities in the developing world.

Dr Mbanjwa, head of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, was able to espouse, in the clearest of terms, the imperative need to use technology in order to free the poor from the cycle of poverty and underdevelopment.

He was able to do this with zest because, as a young man growing up in rural Sweetwaters, outside Pietermaritzburg, he witnessed the need, first-hand, for the deployment of resources that would ensure the provision of basic services and infrastructure. Along with the people of Sweetwaters, he suffered the effects of denial and government neglect.

Dr Mbanjwa saw the conference held on September 20 as a holistic and all-embracing endeavour to address the aspirations of so-called developing communities, and he is confident that the outcomes will go a long way towards finding sustainable solutions.

"Perhaps the most effective way of creating the outcomes that are desired is through the sharing of practical solutions to the technological, engineering, and socio-economic challenges of developing countries, including states of Africa," said a confident Dr Mbanjwa.

The conference was opened by South Africa's national Minister of Transport, Jeff Radebe, reflecting the strategic significance the government of South Africa has placed on the event. The welcome address was delivered by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Sibusiso Ndebele, who said the technology transfer programme was a mechanism to transfer information and new technology from the research community to the user community.

### Facing the challenges

Some of the papers that were presented included: "The Role of Tanzania Technology Transfer Centre in Knowledge and Information Sharing", "The Potential of Stated Preference Techniques in transferring transport technologies in developing countries", "Facing the challenges of technology transfer in developing countries", and "Learning content management system and learning management system as a tool for knowledge dissemination".

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Bheki Cele, told a media briefing in Durban on September 15 that the conference, through deliberations on technology development, would be empowering rural communities with transportation technology skills.

Clearly, the presence of high-profile figures at the conference underlines the vote of confidence the KZN Transport Department has received.

Dr Mbanjwa said that several transportation-related issues were examined by the speakers.

The themes of presentations captured the holistic and all-embracing nature of transportation as the life-blood of all societies – rich and poor and developed and the underdeveloped societies.



**MEC Bheki Cele: Empowering communities with transportation technology skills.**



**Premier Sibusiso Ndebele: Presented the welcome address in which he highlighted the critical role of knowledge transfer.**



**Head of Department Dr Kwazi Mbanjwa – a deep understanding of the need for rural development.**

### Engineering

Challenges – and opportunities – faced by rural communities in relation to engineering, job-creation, road construction and maintenance, road safety and law enforcement, and community infrastructure development formed the focus of some discussions as delegates tried to chart the way forward.

Some of the infrastructure-related issues tackled included concrete roads, road maintenance seals, manually operated chip spreader, pavement design and surfacing repair strategies, gravel road specifications, and their impact on performance.

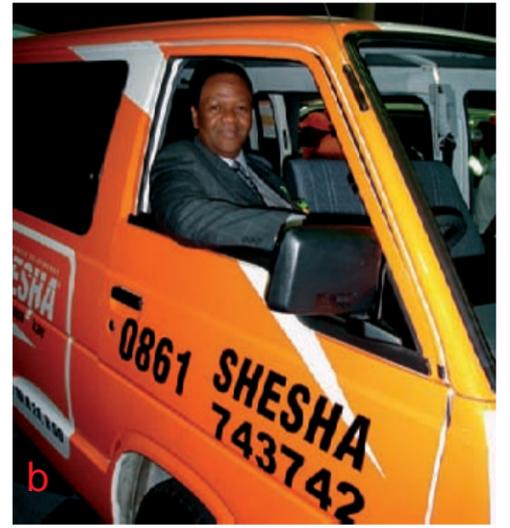
### Enforcement

Papers were delivered on the value of accurate accident statistics in effective traffic policing, as well as on the consequences of overloading (by heavy vehicles) on provincial alternate roads.

### Education

Road safety education issues were dealt with in papers, entitled: "Road signs: do drivers really know what is around the next corner?", "Working together – a look at co-operation among school outreach programmes", as well as the critical one, entitled: "Towards a structured road safety education curriculum". Communication and marketing all took centre stage in an endeavour to promote the concept that information is knowledge and that it must be disseminated, in time, to all who need it.

# Igalelo



a. Delegates at the Top Six Taxi Management Annual General Meeting at the Durban Exhibition Centre.  
 b. Minister Jeff Radebe at the Top Six Meeting exhibition.  
 c. KZN Transport Department General Manager: George Mahlalela talking to taxi operators about the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme.  
 d. Taxi owners at a Road Show at the Pietermaritzburg YMCA.

## Government will create a safer and affordable transport system

**T**HE Taxi Recapitalisation Programme (TRP) will provide a safer, reliable and affordable public transport system in South Africa.

This assurance was given by the national Minister of Transport, Jeff Radebe, during an address at the Top Six Taxi Management annual general meeting held at the Durban Exhibition Centre recently. He also said the TRP was not intended to take business away from taxi operators.

As the TRP gains momentum, a concern that has been expressed by some taxi operators is the possibility of them losing their vehicles, purchased through hard work and a great deal of sacrifice made by themselves. Assurances have

already been given by both the provincial and national departments to allay these concerns, which are unfounded. The taxi industry and the heart of its activities, the vehicles that move hundreds of thousands of people every day, are a vital part of the economy.

On a domestic level, the vehicles also make a critical contribution to the socio-economic stability and welfare of the families of both owners and drivers, in instances where they are employed.

The road shows currently being conducted by the General Manager of Public & Freight Transport in the KZN Department of Transport, George Mahlalela, are being met with some challenges, and full endorsement of the public trans-

port revival initiatives being undertaken is lacking.

Mahlalela has begun to painstakingly relay appropriate messages, allay fears and deal with misconceptions and concerns directly.

"Operators who have more than one vehicle can also scrap or surrender their vehicles in exchange for R50 000 in order to buy the new ones that have approved specifications, as soon as they feel their vehicles are no longer road worthy," said Mahlalela.

The Department's taxi recapitalisation road shows provide information on the background of the process, and particularly came about as a result of a need among many taxi operators to purchase newer, but cheaper, vehicles from abroad.

The road shows also explain to operators that although vehicles that are safe and legal will be allowed to continue in business, the year 2012 will be the cut-off point.

"It makes absolute business sense for legal operators who invest in new vehicles from now on to ensure that they only purchase new vehicles with the required specifications," Mahlalela explained.

"It would be a waste of time and money to buy vehicles now that fall in the category of the existing fleet because the cut-off point for the newly approved vehicle is in seven years," he added.

Affordability is still a challenge as the price of the vehicle is causing a stir. Mahlalela has told operators that since the

taxi industry asked government to refrain from deciding on the manufacturer of the new vehicle and the price, it has been left in the hands of the forces of free trade to determine the price.

However, government has recommended that the price of the vehicle should range in three categories, in accordance with the different seating capacities, which are from 10 to 18. It is up to individual taxi associations to decide on the size of the vehicle they would like to use to suit the needs of their members.

Government has promised to support initiatives that are aimed at finding creative solutions to the funding needs of individual qualifying operators.

# Women's Day celebration in Lamontville a huge success

MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison, Bheki Cele, celebrated Women's Day in Lamontville, Durban, together with women from the various Departments that he is responsible for. More than 400 women attended the function.

The significance of this year's function was the selection of the venue – Lamontville - where many people, among them women, lost their loved ones in the political struggle.

"I requested this event to be held here so that we could commemorate and highlight the importance of celebrating this day with you all. My intention behind involving the local women as well was prompted by the torch that they have carried during the darkest days of the struggle," said Cele.

Since Cele assumed office, he has worked tirelessly towards empowering women employees of his Departments. The Department of Transport, the Department of Community Safety & Liaison, as well as the SAPS now all have more women in senior management positions and more women are certain to be appointed to more of these posts before the end of

the year.

KZN Transport Department Human Resources Manager Cindy Zwane said: "We take our cap off to MEC Cele for continuing the struggle to set the pace for us and for hoping we continue to carry the torch, work towards providing best services and adding value at all times."

Cele is of the view that women are good managers, although on occasions some women have pulled each other down. Cele condemned such behaviour and stressed that women have a constructive to play in each other's lives.

Motivational speaker, Aids activist and role model of women, Musa Njoko urged women to be the masters of their destiny by making the right choices. Addressing the women, she mentioned poverty and the scourge of HIV/Aids, which continued to affect women.

Zibambele contractors were also invited to the function and witnessed the success of the programme. Zibambele has been endorsed as the most successful poverty alleviation initiative in the country.





# The 2nd Africa Technology Transfer



**What exactly do Technology Transfer Centres do?**

They ensure there are technical, scientific, and engineering solutions to the challenges facing rural road development in the country...

Pictures taken at the official opening of the Technology Transfer Centre and Conference.

## BRIDGE-BUILD

### Plus whatever else it takes to ensure

#### Conference Reporter

In sub-Saharan Africa, Tanzania and South Africa are the pace setters in Technology Transfer Centres, illustrating both the need and effectiveness of these institutions. Their value as institutions of learning is also profoundly entrenched.

What exactly do Technology Transfer Centres do? These centres aim to ensure that there are technical, scientific, and engineering solutions to the challenges facing rural road development in the country. The centres have advanced laboratories and field testing facilities

which help with quality control, research, training and data collection.

In the case of KwaZulu-Natal, the centre ensures that the Department of Transport has good infrastructure management systems, including pavements, gravel roads, bridge management, as well as accident and traffic count data bases.

An excellent example of what the centre does can be seen in the challenge KwaZulu-Natal has with obtaining the material that is used to construct gravel roads.

The centre has enabled the province to make use of chemicals to change ordinary soil to hard

surface that can replace

One of the key objectives of the centre is to provide communities with the odds, including financial

Therefore, the centre is a government programme addressing the backlog in the network. The centre also addresses poverty alleviation, job generation, through the Zibembele road maintenance road construction.

Another practical ex





# Transfer Conference



## UILDING...

### are prosperity through mobility

Photos of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport Technology Transfer centre.

gravel. The centre enhances the work of the government to improve access roads, and the centre provides scientifically correct measurements in this regard. The measurements help the Road Traffic Inspectorate better understand, for instance, which road needs more protection from trucks since these vehicles are known to be responsible for some of the damage that occurs on roads. The centre provides a support service for transportation needs in provinces with large rural communities. The centre is located in the KZN Transport Department's Corporate Services Chief Directorate because it provides a support

function. This function includes offering refresher courses to government technical staff and in-service training for university and technical students. The centre also supports educational programmes and career guidance initiatives that seek to develop school pupils who specialise in subjects, such as science and mathematics. One of the primary objectives of the centre is that school children from rural areas are exposed to computers and technical subjects or theories so that they can better compete with learners who have been exposed to technical subjects and have fully equipped laboratories in their schools.

of the centre is illustrated in endeavours to determine the life span of a particular road. The centre provides scientifically correct measurements in this regard. The measurements help the Road Traffic Inspectorate better understand, for instance, which road needs more protection from trucks since these vehicles are known to be responsible for some of the damage that occurs on roads. The centre provides a support service for transportation needs in provinces with large rural communities. The centre is located in the KZN Transport Department's Corporate Services Chief Directorate because it provides a support

#### Some Successes of the KwaZulu-Natal Technology Transfer Centre:

- Administrative re-organisation was initiated and completed.
- As part of research and liaison, a video explaining the process of construction of roads using the labour-based method was produced.
- A manual to guide field staff in design and supervision of labour-based road construction works was developed. The manual has two volumes and covers all aspects of labour-based road construction in a simplified way.
- T2 supported the bridge building competition organised by SAICE.
- The centre continued to provide practical training to third-year technikon students to enable them to complete their studies.
- All the bridges and major culverts were geo-registered and linked to the KZN road network.





## KwaZulu-Natal's Best Drivers head for Mpumalanga

**K**WAZULU-NATAL'S Best Drivers have been selected in the finals of the provincial Driver of the Year competition, held recently at King's Park Stadium in Durban.

The competition consisted of four categories: Rigid, Articulated, Best Male Bus Driver and Best Female Bus Driver.

Clover employee Devaraj Govender scooped the Driver of the Year title in the Rigid category. He said: "I do not think I won because I'm different from any other driver: It's just that I have been participating in this competition for a number of years."

The winner in the the Best Female Bus Driver category, Buhle Mkhwanazi, an employee of Remnant-Alton, said women were more careful than men when it came to road safety. The winner in the Best Male Bus category was Norman Mbanjwa.

The regional finals of the Driver of the Year contest took place in Empangeni, Ladysmith, Pietermaritzburg and Durban. Thirty-three drivers were nominated for the Provincial finals. The objective of the competi-

tion is to improve the skills of, and entrench road safety values among, drivers of heavy vehicles.

The winners will compete in the national competition, to be held in Mpumalanga province in October, and then proceed to SADC. The international competition will be held in Holland next year.

Speaking at King's Park Stadium, MEC Bheki Cele said it was imperative that public transport drivers were competent. He also emphasised the importance of skills development among drivers in KwaZulu-Natal.

"We have to run away from negative perceptions about our drivers by encouraging competitions like this one," said Cele.

Project Manager Marilyn Colborne said: "We want to see drivers complying with road safety and to change the existing perception of bad drivers in South Africa".



**Top:** Winners: Nobuhle Mkhwanazi - Best Female Bus Driver; Devaraj Govender: Driver of The Year and Rigid Category.  
**Bottom:** MEC Bheki Cele and adjudicators at the Driver of The Year competition.

## SAFETY CAMPAIGN ON INDWEDWE'S ROAD OF DEATH IS A HUGE SUCCESS

**I**N a powerful display of commitment, the Community Road Safety Council (CRSC) of iNdwedwe – where pedestrian deaths are on the rise – has joined forces with the KZN Department of Transport to step up road safety education, which has been identified as one of the most effective strategies to keep death off our roads.

Many of the pedestrian fatalities reported in iNdwedwe have occurred on main road 100. As part of the road safety initiative, the iNdwedwe Community Road Safety Council organised the launch of the Asiphephe road safety campaign in the area with the assistance of the Department of Transport. The campaign is aimed at creating awareness of the importance of complying with road rules.

The campaign was conducted on main road 100



iNdwedwe Community Road Safety Council and school children participating in the Road Safety Campaign.

before proceeding to the local community hall. Perhaps one key feature of the campaign was the involvement of Amakhosi, school children, local people and

public transport operators in educating the public about proper road use.

About 10 people have been killed on main road 100, largely because of poor

compliance by drivers and pedestrians.

Said Bonga Mpofo, Road Safety Deputy Manager for the Durban Region: "The Department of Transport is

committed to safety of the people on the roads and also to building roads that bring wealth to the people."

The Department of Transport's Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI) and South African Police Services addressed learners, pedestrians and motorists on safety issues. It is alleged that pedestrians have been ignoring the rules of the road, and some have been reported to have used roads while under the influence of alcohol.

Another problem identified is taxi drivers who do not use designated pick-up and drop-off points, causing danger to other road users.

Mpofo praised the CRSC and others who took part in the campaign for their interest in road safety issues. He said the involvement of concerned parties would add value to the community of iNdwedwe.



# Freight must open doors to BEE

**THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE SPEECH BY KWAZULU-NATAL MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON, MR. BHEKI CELE AT THE FREIGHT EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT HELD AT GOLDEN HORSE CASINO IN PIETERMARITZBURG RECENTLY.**

- In order to create and sustain quality jobs, the freight industry must stimulate an increase in black participation in ownership, management and employment.
- The development of SMME's has been identified as one of the pillars for economic development.
- We can draw upon the experience of other countries where SMME's are playing a critical role in absorbing labour, penetrating new markets and expanding economic growth through innovation and creation.
- The main focal point of the Summit is the establishment of Micro and Small business ventures that will create employment for Survivalist enterprises. The vision of the Summit is that these Micro and Small business ventures will grow into Medium sized operations over time.
- The strategic objectives of the KZN Department of Transport in this respect are as follows:
- To increase the extent to which previously disadvantaged individuals participate in ownership and management of enterprises;
- To provide access to skills training, economic activities and infrastructure in order to create sustainable jobs;
- To stimulate economic growth;
- To strengthen the cohesion between small enterprises;
- To level the playing fields between large and small enterprises; and
- To promote access to finance.

Specific Opportunities in each Mode of Transport:

## A. Rail Transport

- The KwaZulu-Natal branch line network has nine clearly defined railway lines. Passenger services are no longer offered on these lines and since 1980 the freight tonnage carried has reduced substantially, from over 8 million tons to 2.5 million tons in 2002.
- This is a total cargo drop of 72%. The cargo lost by rail

rapidly transferred onto road mainly due to increased road vehicle size, aggressive competition from the deregulated road haulage industry, large increases in private distribution fleets, and the poor state of rail infrastructure.

- The reduction in rail traffic has also reduced the number of opportunities for small and medium sized enterprises in the rural areas, to participate in the supply chain of

a safe and efficient service to customers.

This rehabilitation work can be outsourced to SMME's and has been identified as follows:

- Repairs to tracks and track ballast;
- Clearing points and buried rails (mainly in unused sidings);
- Concreting crossings;
- Fencing where necessary; and
- Opening drains, culverts and bridges; and
- Repairs to buildings and struc-



commodities, as the large centrally controlled fleets of heavy road vehicles now in operation, usually carry out the entire distribution operation.

- As part of its initiative to revitalise branch lines, between 22 April and 9 June 2003, we consulted twelve Rural Road Transport Forums to obtain their views on:
  1. The utility and future of the branch lines existing in their respective districts; and
  2. Potential SMME opportunities associated with these lines.
- The feedback from these meetings was in favour of revitalising the branch lines and the creation of opportunities for SMME's in the process.

## Infrastructure Rehabilitation Opportunities:

To attract and sustain an optimum amount of cargo on the branch lines, the lines have to be rehabilitated to an operable state where they can provide

tures.

## Rail and Equipment Maintenance:

Once the rehabilitation programme has been completed, an ongoing maintenance programme will be implemented and will include:

### Rail:

Fence repairs and maintenance; track weeding, herbicide spraying and clearing of verges; inspection and maintenance of drains, culverts, and bridges; etc.

### Trains:

Truck cleaning and body maintenance; routine painting of rolling stock; cleaning of passenger coaches; locomotive washing and cleaning; wheel inspections and lubrication; routine maintenance, and heavy overhauls

In terms of current legislation, Spoornet is the exclusive railway operator on most branch lines in the country. The KZN

Transport Department and the National Department of Transport are engaging Spoornet on ways to unlock these activities as Micro and Small business opportunities.

These negotiations also extend to the operation of privately owned railways on these branch lines. Identified potential pilot project areas are the Nkwalini railway branch line, the Sisonke District railway network and the South Coast (Port Shep-

small transport operators.

We have also been identifying working opportunities within the road freight industry for SMME operators. Our Regional Offices often procure supplies as part of their operational activities which require these goods to be delivered to depots or sites. This situation provides the opportunity for this transportation to be outsourced to small transport operators who are listed on the department's

stone to Harding) railway lines.

## Operational and Railway Support Activities:

In addition to the potential for creation of work on the railway itself, once the railways are conveying a feasible amount of branch line traffic and offer competitive rates compared to road transport, there will be many opportunities for small businesses to provide services to the communities in rural areas served by branch lines. If rail service conditions were improved, some of the services which historically provided opportunities as peripheral services to the railways could well be viable again.

## B. Road Transportation - Small Transport Operators

Due to large companies dominating the freight transport industry and making it difficult for emerging operators to progress, the Freight Directorate of the KZN Department of Transport has instituted programmes for the training of

Small Transport Operator's database.

## Truck Stops:

There are currently initiatives that support the building of Truck Stops on certain routes in the province. The construction of these facilities will provide an opportunity to solicit the services of SMME's.

## C. Maritime Industry

KwaZulu-Natal is naturally endowed with the two largest ports in South Africa, which are strategically positioned on major shipping routes, serving as major gateways to domestic and international trade. The import and export of cargo is a fairly complex industry involving many different activities. The Freight Directorate aims to establish relationships with the National Ports Authority and other industry leaders to identify opportunities for SMME development in the maritime sector.

## KZN DoT shifts into top gear for 2010 Soccer World Cup

**A**S South Africa focuses its attention on the 2010 Soccer World Cup, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport is putting itself in a state of preparedness for the global soccer showcase.

MEC Bheki Cele recently led a delegation to the Atlanta COMTO conference in the United States, which was held over six days. The key objective of the visit was to acquire knowl-

edge and impart experiences on transportation matters. The KwaZulu-Natal delegation was particularly keen on knowing how the road accident rate is kept low in Atlanta, where, statistics reveal, not more than two accidents a week occur and fatalities from motor vehicle crashes are rare.

The visit to Atlanta will be beneficial to KwaZulu-Natal. Atlanta has offered assistance to South Africa to meet 2010 chal-

lenges, both in transportation and safety.

Some of the critical challenges facing the South African transportation system in the run-up to 2010 are: ensuring that enforcement, safety and security matters were flawless; readiness for the major sporting event and community involvement in transportation, especially the youth. These issues were tabled in Atlanta, and presentations made on other

initiatives that are underway in South Africa.

A freight summit was held recently where MEC Bheki Cele addressed similar issues, environmental problems in transportation and the role of transportation in economic development.

On security for 2010, the following is part of a broad plan: co-ordination and accreditation of all law enforcement agencies.

“It is amazing how they turned defiance into 100% compliance when the democratic government came into existence. What is remarkable is the accident rate in that state; it has about two accidents per week, usually with minor injuries. If this could spread to South Africa, especially in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, we will be the winning province,” said Cele.

## Empangeni arrests prompt appeal by Cele to hand in fraudulent licences

**M**EC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, Bheki Cele, has appealed to those who hold fraudulent drivers' licences to come forward.

The appeal followed the arrest of four Empangeni Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI) staff and a fifth person, who is the husband to one of the accused. The fifth person has no connection with the Department of Transport. Four of the accused are out on bail, varying from R3 000 to R5 000 each.

Operation Siyashanela is a clampdown intended to weed out fraud and corruption in the issuing of drivers' licences at testing stations. Traffic Officers and the public are constantly reminded that wrongdoing will not be tolerated.

“We have been trying to deal with this issue for a long time. I am happy that some traffic officers are working tirelessly to clampdown on corruption and fraud. Everyone who is linked to this con and arrested will

face the full might of law. Our 100% Compliance Policy applies to all sectors of transport,” said Cele.

The house of one of the accused was raided during investigations and 186 applications for drivers' licences, two drivers' licences, 162 learners' licences, four temporary drivers' licences, 36 professional public driving permits and 13 identity documents were allegedly found.

Investigations are continuing and the accused have been suspended pending the finalisation of a departmental investigation.

“Further arrests are expected; we will not rest until we have brought all involved to book,” said Assistant Manager, Mr. Petros Sibiya.

Head of the Department of Transport, Dr. Kwazi Mbanjwa, said an anti-crime and corruption campaign would be launched in the first week of October, targeting all problem areas.



### **ABOUT IGALELO**

Igalelo is produced by the KZN Department of Transport's Communication Support Directorate.

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### **TRANSPORT RADIO PROGRAMMES**

Ukhozi FM's Transport Ibandla  
Tuesdays 8-9 pm

and

P 4's Straight Talk  
Thursdays 6:30-7:30 pm

October has been declared Public Transport Month, to champion the speedy transformation of public transport services.

Watch this space for more details