



SPEECH NOTES BY KZN MEC FOR TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LIAISON MR BHEKI CELE AT THE METRORAIL STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING IN DURBAN ON FRIDAY 15 JUNE 2007.

Protocol Observed

- The underlying purpose of any transport system is to move people and goods efficiently, as cheaply as possible, and safely across or through different modes such as road, rail and air transport.
- It is the vision and mission of the government to ensure that these modes work together in harmony in a way that complements each other. Taxis and buses on the road are must be able to cooperate and collaborate with trains in the common endeavor to move people from one place to another.

- The renovation and upgrading of our South African transport system is constrained by high volume of the backlog that was created by inadequate historical investment in infrastructure, as well as by the legacies of apartheid planning and under-development, including a shortage of sufficient skills within government and the private sector.
- Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for allowing me to join you this evening. We are gathered here tonight to celebrate your achievements. I wish to congratulate all the stakeholders of Metrorail for their efforts towards making this day a success.
- This is indeed a great day not only for Metrorail and its stakeholders but also for the Department of Transport and other general public. As the MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison, I am responsible for safety, including railway lines and what moves on it, that is, commuter and goods trains.
- During the Transport Month in October, I had a train ride with Metrorail officials from Umlazi to Durban. I was able to get a better understanding of the appreciation and frustrations that are facing both the company and commuters in the rail industry.

- Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to know that the government's vision of a revamped rail system in our province is being realized. Tonight we are here to celebrate the fact that five 10M5 Trains have been refurbished and outstanding challenges such as toilet facilities are being addressed.
- The establishment of Railway Police and the building of Contact Points which are already in operation will go a long way in crime prevention in KwaMashu, Reunion, Cavandish, Escombe and the Durban stations.
- The Metrorail has also established Community Courts which deal with Section 12 incidents. Police in five Contact Points will assist with arresting perpetrators and will be prosecuted in community courts.
- Special actions at stations are being conducted in partnership with SAPS and there is also a good working relationship with Community Policing Forums.

- I am glad indeed that the ongoing safety campaigns at stations and schools, with more emphasis during Easter and Festive periods, are designed to take safety and rights of commuters as the main priority.
- I have myself read shocking stories of people who have been knocked down by trains, especially those residing in areas adjacent to railways.
- Distinguished guests, the 2010 Soccer World Cup is upon us and if the relationship between transport operators and commuters is not amicable, we risk the danger of failing to accommodate and transport comfortably our visitors for this prestigious event.
- I must say we ought to be able to overcome these challenges before we can be complacent that we will manage the more than 350 000 spectators that will participate and watch the 2010 Soccer World Cup.
- I therefore urge and encourage transport operators, including rail sector, to conduct their businesses with due care for the safety and security of the public and to ensure that the working conditions for their employees are in line with labour legislation.

- In the final analysis ladies and gentlemen, as government we are determined to ensure that our public transport infrastructure and services are efficient and improve the lives of our people.

I thank you