



MINISTER OF TRANSPORT ADDRESS AT THE OCTOBER TRANSPORT MONTH CLOSING CEREMONY HELD AT, LIBODE MTHATHA, EASTERN CAPE

30 October 2016

Programme Director,

Members of the Executive Councils of Transport and Roads

Members of the Provincial Legislatures

Your Worship the Mayors and Members of the Mayoral Committees

Traditional Leadership

Faith Based leadership

Distinguished representatives of local government

Director-General of the Department of Transport

Provincial Heads of the Departments of Transport

Representatives of the State Owned Companies and agencies

Members of the South African Police and Traffic Police

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

I take this rich opportunity to welcome you all fondly!

This spectacular gathering is intended to mark the conclusion of a very successful October Transport Month Campaign which has meaningfully resonated across all nine South African provinces and has been

tenaciously implemented across all spheres of government. This is an annual feature on the calendar of the Department of Transport. It seeks to raise awareness of the important role of transport infrastructure in the economy, and galvanise the participation from civic society and business, in providing a safer, more affordable, accessible and reliable transport system for our country.

The events hosted this year focused on transport projects that create jobs, develop efficient and reliable public transport with focus towards road safety, public transport and infrastructure development. This was carried by the Department through unleashing of new infrastructural projects throughout the country, road safety education programmes and traffic law enforcement operations.

Equally, October month is important on the African National Congress (ANC), our governing party, as it marks Oliver Tambo Month, a month of renewal and reflection on the values of our glorious movement, based on the life of this illustrious leader of our people.

On the 27th of October 2016, President Oliver Reginald Tambo would have turned 99 years old. This makes 2017 a crucial year for our movement as it marks the Centenary of OR, one of the most outstanding leaders to be produced by our country and continent.

Deep and strategic reflections on the life of President Oliver Tambo will offer us on the opportunity to confront and deal with the challenges facing both the ANC as a movement of the people and our beloved country, South Africa at this juncture.

This is because OR Tambo was a solution oriented leader who always sought to move forward on the basis of building consensus among all forces necessary for such a movement forward.

Programme Director,

Our thematic October Transport Month has been a whirlwind of positive energy that permeated every nook and cranny of our beautiful country. For us in the transport sector, never was there a dull moment.

We traversed the length and breadth our country listening and talking to our people, linking and communicating with all fellow South on radio, television, meetings, twitters and all manner of social media. Not only did we listen and talk, but we also took stock of what it is in transport infrastructure that will and make our country work better for all of us.

We went around announcing the good news of our immediate and future plans. Beyond all that and most importantly, we delivered concrete and life changing transport infrastructure – in road, in rail, in marine and in aviation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our country is still reeling from huge pockets of the legacy of apartheid enslavement. Enslavement of poverty, enslavement of unemployment and enslavement of inequality. The fiercest and most divisive exchanges in our country today are those orchestrated among the poor, the economically downtrodden and the unemployed. It is time that we commit to unshackle ourselves, once and for all from this pervasive enslavement.

The radical transformation of the transport sector as envisaged in the National Development Plan (NDP), is an obligation in which we must address massive challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment, a pledge and are called upon to dedicate our services to.

This year's Transport Month theme is ***“Together we move South Africa Forward.”***

Today, as a transport sector, we say to South Africa that we have moved the country forward in the following manner:

- More job opportunities have been created;
- An improved and more integrated approach of work with sister departments in many crucial areas has been forged;
- A better inter-governmental approach to transport matters from National to Provinces and Municipalities is the order of the day;
- Optimal intra-sectoral collaboration among transport entities and stakeholder community is standard practice, and
- New ground breaking areas for heightened economic activity and a job-churning trajectory are constantly explored.

Our intensive rail modernization programme provides uncontested evidence of unprecedented potential job opportunities, localisation and industrialisation.

The R11 billion allocated for S’hamba Sonke Programme is matched Rand for Rand by provinces as prescribed by the Division of Revenue Act

(DORA). This programme spends 40% of the Provincial Road Maintenance Grant (PRMG) on preventative maintenance.

Recognition that the majority of our population relies on public transport, we have invest R5.9 billion in the planning, construction and operating of the Integrated Public Transport Networks (IPTNs).

Our Provincial Transport Operators Grant (PTOG) continues to assist bus service operations in provinces.

The taxi industry continues to register strides in making taxi services modern, friendly, safe, comfortable and profitable. We are witnesses to the South African National Taxi Association's (SANTACO) cashless smart card payment system, which will indeed led to the integration and transformation of this important public transport mode.

Programme Director,

We are today gathered here at Libode in the Eastern Cape which is one of the poorest regions in the country.

SANRAL has delivered completed road infrastructure development and road maintenance projects to the value of R1,4 billion in the Eastern Cape in its 2015/2016 financial year.

The 13 road engineering projects comprise activities which included, amongst others, vertical and horizontal alignment, new community access roads, pedestrian walkways, repairing of sections of road in distress, road

resurfacing, construction of interchange bridges, and slope stabilization projects.

At the heart of SANRAL's projects is a visible imprint of opportunities for communities.

Through the 13 completed projects, the number of jobs created provided employment to 1988 individuals, and training and skills development initiatives was provided to 459 individuals.

Here at Libode, SANRAL has constructed the Libode Overpass Bridge, Libode Interchange Bridge and the Mt Nicholas Pedestrian Bridge.

The new pedestrian bridge will provide safety to 1200 school children while offering peace of mind and solace for their parents, families and teachers.

The improvements at the interchange and overpass bridges have resulted in a reduction in travel times; improved safety for pedestrians and motorists; and accident reduction on the R61.

The project created work for 37 SMME companies, of which five were women owned, and 22 youth owned. The total value of SMME work was R79,271,590.40.

The total number of job opportunities created on the project was 795 individuals, of which 381 were youth, 125 women and one person living with a disability. Training was also provided to 303 people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we reflect on the benefits of our hard labour as the ANC government, road safety remains our primal concern. This year we approach the festive season with a high level of consciousness. The level of awareness about road safety is high and there are many voices making a clarion call for individuals to take responsibility to reduce the carnage on our roads.

There is unanimity in the call that said ***“Lets save lives and move South Africa forward”***.

The road traffic fraternity will be in full force during the festive period to protect all road users. Our campaign will enhance co-ordination and integration as well as improve law enforcement and road traffic safety awareness activities.

As the Department of Transport and all road entities, our determination and resilience will ensure that we leave no stone unturned in changing the attitudes and behaviour of our road users.

We can no longer afford to bring this strain to our economy, health and social services. We need to declare that enough is enough.

I want to thank all of you for being a very active and committed transport family during our Transport Month Campaign for this year. Your efforts, dedication and commitment should continue in good spirit and lead the people of South Africa into a brilliant and resounding future.

I Thank you all.

