

FOREWORD

THE HONOURABLE MINISTER JEFF T. RADEBE

Transport is not only a significant sector of the South African economy but our future prosperity will continue to depend on it helping people and goods move as efficiently as possible. Rising prosperity means the demands on our transport system will continue to increase year on year and the challenges we are faced with are well known. There are no quick fixes.



When I took over the leadership of the Department of Transport, I took over the helm of a ship that, while set on a positive course, was still navigating through a sea of overhaul in order to fulfil its mandate. The Department has however progressively pushed the limits in harnessing its resources, human and financial, to continuously improve its performance, quantitatively and qualitatively, in achieving its mandate.

I therefore have absolutely no hesitation in affirming that the Department has capable and dedicated people who not only kept the Department going amid challenging times, but also succeeded in substantively reaching the objectives that had been set for the 2004/ 2005 financial year.

I take this opportunity to thank both the management team and staff of the Department for their efforts and dedication. I am pleased to present the Annual Report that reflects on the work and the achievements of my Department, and the following highlights deserve mentioning:

The highlight of the 2004/2005 financial year is undoubtedly the strides we have made through partnerships with Sector Departments, Provinces and Municipalities to develop and create policies, strategies and plans for the foundations and provision of high quality, safe, reliable and sustainable transport infrastructure and services in the areas of public transport system.

- The Annual Report will reflect that in the public transport area, we have achieved fundamental goals in concluding current transformation processes such as:
 - the Taxi Recapitalisation process;
 - the rationalisation of public transport services;
 - the improvement of the public transport subsidy system; and
 - focus on the provision of public transport infrastructure in order to promote intermodalism and seamless, integrated services.
- We have had to make hard choices on how to combat challenges we are facing in our freight logistics system. This report reflects the Government's commitment to giving freight logistics the highest possible priority. We continued with our commitment to reduce the cost of trade and achieving seamless logistics in South Africa. Strategic interventions were made across transport modes to eliminate current blockages, increase cargo movement capacity and improve service delivery to increase commodity throughput, grow sector output while reducing transaction cost. Some initiatives

that were undertaken in this regard include:

- the identification and assessment of key freight corridors in order to determine infrastructure investment requirements;
 - the development of a branchline strategy to provide a clear vision for the revival and sustaining of branchlines that are key for local economic development;
 - the protection of the road network through the development and rollout of an Overload Control Strategy; and
 - the intensification of the implementation of the strategic vision for road network development.
- While paying attention to national transport issues the Department has also been mindful of the importance of the rural development. Parts of the Rural Strategy Framework were completed to reduce high levels of marginalisation of communities due to remoteness from economic opportunities, poor access to transport services and high costs of access to the most basic types of transport services. We continued to strive to provide access to our people, reduce the percentage of income that is spent on transport and ensure that infrastructure provides the necessary stimulus to unlock economic and social activity in rural communities.
 - In the past year we have also made huge strides in ensuring that aviation plays a critical role in our economic growth and significant progress was made towards the completion of the Aviation policy. The policy will streamline aviation services to make it an accessible mode of transport for both trade and passenger movement.
 - I am confidently able to say that whilst much work remains to be done, we have for the past year continued in intensive process to find a long-term solution to the tragic levels of death and injury on our roads. Significant strides and milestones were achieved through the implementation of the Road to Safety Strategy.

These achievements have been essential in our initial plan to remedy the situation towards implementing an overarching development agenda in the transport sector.

Above all, I would like to take this opportunity to praise the staff of the Department, who have laboured under unprecedented challenges to get the work done. I commend them for their dedication and professionalism under pressure. I am proud to say this Department has seized the opportunity to rebuild on a stronger foundation, and confidently moved forward with renewed energy to meet the many transport challenges ahead.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership and the contribution of the former Director-General, Ms Wrenelle Stander. I am also pleased to welcome the new Director-General Ms Mpumi Mpofu, who joins us from the Department of Housing where she served as Director-General for 8 years and Head of Housing in Gauteng for 2 years prior to that.

I have no doubt that she brings new skills and experience to the Department and that the Department will continue on a path of achievement that contributes to our economic growth and a better life for all.

I invite you to read through this report, and to use it as a yardstick against which to measure my Department's performance for the past financial year. I hope that it will give you a flavour of the contribution my Department makes to a better South Africa.

Mr Jeff T Radebe
Minister of Transport

