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SPEECH FOR THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, MS BARBARA CREECY, MP

Media briefing on activation for Springboks vs New Zealand Test Match

25 August 2024

The Gauteng Provincial Government MEC for Transport, Ms Kedibone Diale-Tlabela.

The Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Cllr Dada Morero, and Members of the Mayoral Committee present.

The Group CEO of PRASA, Mr Hishaam Emeran, and the CEO of Gautrain, Mr Tshepo Kgobe.

The Managing Director of Ellis Park, Mr Pieter Kruger.

All government officials present from the various spheres of government.

Ladies and gentlemen of the media.

I want to welcome you all and thank you for sacrificing your Sunday to witness how government is improving South Africa's public transport system to be a ***truly modern and integrated urban public transport system***.

I certainly am very excited about the test match between the Springboks and the All Blacks this coming Saturday, 31 August 2024. More than 62-thousand spectators will converge on Emirates Airline Park to witness what promises to be an absolutely thrilling match between two of the world's greatest rugby teams. It's no surprise that tickets sold out almost immediately.

As the new Minister of Transport, I am also excited about the possibilities of showcasing our ever-improving transport infrastructure for this international event which will see tens of thousands of rugby fans descending on the City of Joburg next weekend.

Our government has a ***vision of an intermodal transport system*** and today we are going on a tour of the rail system to see the strides we are making in realizing this vision.

Today, I am delighted to announce that PRASA, the passenger rail agency reporting to the Department of Transport, has been working with the Gautrain Management Agency, together with the City of Joburg and the rugby union at Emirates Park Stadium, to ensure a hassle-free, secure transport solution for the fans.

Let me say at the outset, South Africa still has a long way to go in forging a ***properly integrated urban public transport system***, but we are making steady progress.

Throughout the world, ***rail is the backbone of well-functioning public transport systems***, because it is the most ***efficient***, most ***sustainable*** and also the ***cheapest*** form of transport. If we are to achieve sustainable cities, then we are going to have to work hard and ***work together as national, provincial and local governments*** to ensure that people can move seamlessly from one mode of transport to another, whether it is by foot, bicycle, train, bus, taxi, car, e-hailing service or airplane. (Or even on a ship.)

As the Minister of Transport, ***I will be forging closer links between the National Department of Transport, provinces and municipalities*** as we all have a critical role to play in ensuring that people can go to work or school, or indeed to a rugby or football match, using public transport. I want to emphasise that our government, across the national, provincial and local

spheres, must work together to design and build sustainable cities with integrated transport systems which will assist in growing our country's economy and which is ultimately for the benefit of our citizens. The National Department of Transport is engaged in ***exploratory talks on developing a mutually beneficial agreement on future capital expansion on rail operations.***

This means, for example, with the proposed ***expansion of the Gautrain network***, further north and south, that we – NDOT, PRASA, the Gauteng Provincial Government, the Bombela Concessionaire Company and the City of Johannesburg – will need to and ***must cooperate and work closely together*** to plan and execute our clear intention to further integrate our public transport system to achieve sustainable cities that work for our people.

Today, in preparation for the Springboks' test match, we are illustrating the ***integration between the Gautrain and PRASA rail systems*** (and other modes of transport) for the benefit of commuters – in this case the rugby fans who are going to Ellis Park who can board the Gautrain at:

- Any of the seven (7) stations between Hatfield and Park Stations (Hatfield, Pretoria, Centurion, Midrand, Marlboro, Sandton and Rosebank)
- Or any of the five stations between OR Tambo International Airport and Park Stations (OR Tambo, Rhodesfield, Marlboro, Sandton, Rosebank) – of course changing trains at Sandton Station.

In summary, what we are showcasing today is the fact that here in Gauteng, commuters can walk or take a bus or taxi to a PRASA or Gautrain Station, and board a train to get to Emirates Park Stadium, formerly Ellis Park Stadium, via Ellis Park Station.

As you will see shortly, the train ride from Park Station here in the Johannesburg CBD to Ellis Park Station is three (3) minutes. Then it's a short walk into the stadium.

Of course, ***rail is not the only component of public transport*** and needs to work with all the other components to ensure our public transport system becomes vibrant and viable. What we are doing for the Springboks' game against the All Blacks will illustrate how different elements of public transport can and should work together.

CONCLUSION: Just like various players in the public transport sector will be working to make the Springbok game a success, there will also be collaboration between different levels and departments of government in an attempt to provide a seamless and safe experience for all sports lovers next Saturday.

We hope that the fans will enjoy and appreciate our integrated transport system – and we look forward to our 2023 World Cup Champions, the Springboks, giving us a spectacular win over the All Blacks! Thank you.