

NEWS EDITOR

MEDIA STATEMENT

20 October 2016

GOVERNMENT SATISFIED WITH TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE PROVINCE

In the early hours of Thursday 20 October 2016, two Mpumalanga Provincial Government MEC'S; MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison Mr Petrus Ngomane and MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Ms Sasekani Manzini accompanied by Buscor Executive Chairperson Ms Norah Fakude-Nkuna rode on a commuter bus from Mbangwane in Nkomazi Local Municipality to Mbombela bus terminus. The two MEC's woke up at 02h30 in a symbolic solidarity manner with a common commuter to catch a bus at Mbangwane which departed at 04h45 and arrived in Mbombela at 07h00. The two hour journey stretches 120km.

The two MEC's wanted to have a personal experience about the struggles of commuter, interact and listen to commuters and hear about their daily experiences. This is part of National October Transport Month Programme, which in the main seeks to promote the use of public transport as a safe, affordable and reliable mode of transport.

The Provincial Government subsidises commuters who are using buses in the province to make commuting affordable to many people who rely on public transport as a mode of choice. There are about 4.7 million commuters subsidised monthly covering about 2.4 million kilometres.

The two MEC's interacted with commuters along the journey and were warmly welcomed by commuters. Some complained about the long daily trips but in the main commended Buscor bus company for good buses.

When interacting with commuters, MEC Sasekani Manzini said the prime concern of Government was to cushion the poor commuting people by subsidising bus companies so that travelling was more affordable. "Government is working hard to create road infrastructure which goes a long way in reducing travelling time and enhancing road safety in the process," said MEC Manzini. She commended Buscor for investing in buying good buses which are replenished every five years.

MEC Petrus Ngomane commended Buscor bus company for their safety record. "Our concern is many innocent people who die in our roads, hence we commend the efforts of the company to prioritise safety of its personnel and commuters," said MEC Ngomane.

Ms Norah Fakude-Nkuna said she was humbled by continued support of communities in many areas where her company operates. She said the company strives to maintain high standard of safety and customer service. In addition, " Our company is heavily involved in social responsibility in many areas of our operations, giving bursaries and assisting municipalities with road maintenance", said Ms Norah Fakude-Nkuna.

The department of Public Works, Roads and Transport will continue with the month long October Transport Month activities. On the 24th of October 2016 MEC Manzini will hand over a footbridge to the community of Ronaldsey in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality and convene the EPWP Summit on the 25th - 26th of October 2016 in Ngwenyama lodge in the City of Mbombela. The summit will conclude with the hosting the 7th Provincial Kamoso Awards. The last activity would be the sod turning of road D236 in Barberton in the City of Mbombela.

Ends.

For more information, kindly contact Mr David Nkambule on (013) 766-6553 or 071-608-1059

