

Launch of the Integrated Transport Sector BBBEE Charter

31 October 2008

Welcome address by the Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, CLR Amos Masondo, on the occasion of the launch of the Integrated Transport Sector BBBEE Charter, Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication, Kliptown, Soweto – Johannesburg

Programme Director

The Honourable Minister of Transport: Minister Jeff Radebe

MMC for Transportation: Clr Rehana Moosajee

Members of the Mayoral Committee

Fellow Councillors

Managers and Officials

Representatives of Organised Business

Representatives of Organised Labour

Representatives of the Transport Industry

Distinguished Guests

Community of the Greater Soweto

The Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Programme Director, on behalf of the City of Johannesburg, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this important occasion – the launch of the Integrated Transport Sector Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) Charter.

This launch takes place during a very symbolic period in our national calendar - the Transport Month.

It is also significant that we are meeting here in Kliptown – at the Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication, where 53 years ago the Congress of the People met to consider, discuss and launch the Freedom Charter.

The idea of the Freedom Charter was first proposed by Professor ZK Matthews at the ANC Cape Provincial Conference held in Cradock in 1953. In his words he said: "I wonder whether the time has not come for the ANC to consider the question of convening a national convention, a congress of the people, representing all people of this country irrespective of race or colour to draw up a Freedom Charter for the Democratic South Africa of the future".

We are also indebted to the then President of the African National Congress, Chief Albert Luthuli, who issued a call in May 1954 urging volunteers to travel across the length and breadth of our country on a campaign and to collect demands and to encourage people to articulate or explain their vision of a Democratic South Africa.

The story of the Charter and its significance will be told time and time again, not only to the many visitors who come here but to the broader public. It is indeed a story worth of being told to the entire humanity.

Programme Director, the launch of this BBBEE Charter is an important development to our society in general and an achievement to the Transport Sector in particular. Its aim, amongst

others, is to use government procurement processes to create access to business opportunities for previously disadvantaged individuals.

The taxi industry and bus industry is well known for its spirit of entrepreneurship and I have no doubt that all the stakeholders will recognise and seize the opportunities presented by a changing transport environment. All stakeholders should seek to find a niche market, adjust to the dictates of transition, work hard and prosper.

In this City we have said, over and over again that government working alone and in isolation will never adequately address all the challenges that face us. This Charter will provide the opportunity for all of us to work together and deepen what we consider to be a meaningful partnership.

Programme Director, you are aware of the Bus Rapid Transit System, Rea Vaya system, that the City of Johannesburg is introducing to revolutionise our public transport network. Rea Vaya is a Bus Rapid Transit (transit means conveying) Transport system that will provide the people of Johannesburg with a cleaner, faster, cheaper, safer and more reliable public transport which will serve as an alternative to the passenger car.

The City of Johannesburg is committed to ensure that Rea Vaya benefits existing transport operators and provides an opportunity for our people to become critical players in the transport industry (BBBEE). In Johannesburg, we see the taxi, bus and rail industry as worthy partners in our quest for an integrated transport system.

In the past year, the year 2007 in October and December, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Top 6 Taxi and the Greater Johannesburg Regional Taxi Council (Taxi Management), respectively. In September 2008, we signed another Memorandum of Understanding with PUTCO and METRO Bus as key role players in the Bus Industry.

The Memorandums (Memoranda) of Understanding that we signed were a culmination of a lengthy process of interaction and consultation. Central to this signing, is the securing of the future of public transport in the City of Johannesburg.

Programme Director, on Tuesday, 04th November 2008, the City of Johannesburg will be launching the 1st Bus Rapid Transit - Rea Vaya prototype station.

In the near future when new freeways are completed, when the rapid rail and when the bus systems are in place, our City will be unrecognisable from a transport perspective. At this envisaged time, we would have upgraded our modern transport networks and there will be far less congestion on our roads.

Rea Vaya, as the phrase suggest, is moving forward very fast. In about six months, Phase 1A will be complete in time for the June 2009 Confederations Cup. The City of Johannesburg will have 143 new buses running, a single operator and a smart card system for commuters. We are urging all the role players to be part of this important development.

When the entire Phase 1 network is complete, Rea Vaya will cover more than 122kms of trunk routes across the City, with feeder and complementary buses integrated into the system. There will be about 150 stations, positioned half a kilometre apart, with buses

running every three minutes in peak times and every ten minutes in off-peak times and it will be possible to catch a bus from 5am to 12 midnight.

Programme Director, I am convinced that Rea Vaya BRT will open up a wealth of new opportunities in the public transport sector for all participants, big or small, in which both the bus and taxi industry, have been, and will remain important players.

Programme Director, I have no doubt in my mind that this Charter is a very significant development in the struggle to advance and take further the Transport Sector in this country.

Once again and in conclusion, please allow me to welcome every individual and organisation that is present here today to the City of Johannesburg. We hope to see you at the opening of the 1st prototype BRT station.

Thank you