

Address by the City of Tshwane MMC for Roads and Transport, Cllr Sheila Lynn Senkubuge, at the media briefing for the A Re Yeng takeover of the bus services in Mamelodi

Good morning

Gauteng MEC for Roads and Transport

The City Manager and other members of staff

The Chairperson of the Board and Chairman for Tshwane Rapid Transit (Pty) Ltd, Mr Motlhabane Abner Tsebe

Members of the taxi industry

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

At the start of Transport Month it gives me great pleasure to make a ground-breaking announcement that, with effect from tomorrow, 2 October 2017, Tshwane's A Re Yeng bus service will take over bus service operations from AutoPax in Mamelodi.

AutoPax, which took over the operations in Mamelodi in 2015 after the withdrawal of the Putco bus service, has ceased to operate with effect from the end of September 2017.

The routes, times and fares will remain the same. All that is changing is the bus service provider from AutoPax to A Re Yeng. This is a challenging but manageable task given the limited time we had to prepare. We are geared up for this task and will deliver a world class professional service to our bus commuters.

When the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport informed us to take over the bus routes and operations from AutoPax in Mamelodi, we immediately mobilised the City's resources and made the necessary logistical arrangements to ensure a smooth transition. It is important for us as a responsible and service-oriented administration that our bus commuters from Mamelodi are not stranded.

The success of this transition is critical for the future of the A Re Yeng bus service and the City of Tshwane's strategic objective of fully intermodal, integrated public transport that is affordable and safe. This opportunity will immediately allow this administration to expand the integrated rapid public transport system.

This morning the City Manager, Dr Moeketsi Mosola, signed the agreement with the HoD of the Department of Roads and Transport to cede and transfer the contract to the City of Tshwane. The Province will also transfer the DORA operational transport grant to us by next Friday.

Our partnerships with our stakeholders are crucial for a smooth transition to A Re Yeng. We have had fruitful engagements with the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport, councillors, A Re Yeng as well as leaders of the taxi industry. Mr Tsebe is here today to

show support for this very important endeavour to provide uninterrupted transport services to and from Mamelodi.

We will deploy 30 buses from the A Re Yeng fleet on all the routes that were operated by AutoPax. AutoPax will provide us with 30 bus conductors to render guidance to our drivers for the entire month of October. AutoPax has undertaken to issue all the route schedules today.

We have started on a multi-pronged communication campaign to inform the commuters of the changes that will be introduced tomorrow. In fact, we have started with loud hailing in Mamelodi and from today announcements will be made on radio. Our partners in the media fraternity are requested to also assist in disseminating this information to the public.

We have requested all the officials involved in this operation to remain vigilant and available at all times to ensure a smooth transition.

In the interim, commuters are urged to bring cash.

It's all systems go from tomorrow morning. We urge our bus commuters and the community in general to look after and take good care of our precious asset - the A Re Yeng bus fleet - for us to provide a reliable, affordable and safe transport service.