



transport

Department
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



OPENING REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, FIKILE MBALULA ON THE OCCASION OF A MEETING WITH CHAIRPERSONS AND CEOS OF TRANSPORT PUBLIC ENTITIES HELD AT THE RTMC IN CENTURION ON 11 JUNE 2019

Acting Director-General, Mr Hlabisa
Deputy Directors-General of the Department
Chairpersons of our Public Entities
Chief Executive Officers
Ladies and Gentlemen

I must, at the outset, apologise on behalf of the Deputy Minister, Mme Dikeledi Magadzi, who had to attend an urgent engagement with the European Union ambassadors to declare our candidacy and lobby for another term on the Councils of the two specialized UN Agencies, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) later this year.

I must further express my appreciation at the promptness with which you responded to my invitation even though the notice was short. Responsiveness is a culture we must inculcate, not only in respect of our engagements, but also in respect of delivering on your respective mandates.

The focus of this 6th administration is on accelerated implementation, working with all South Africans. Our implementation agenda will be structured around apex priorities, towards which energy and resources must be directed, and around which we must build social compacts with all stakeholders. As implementation arms of the Department, your role in improving the lives of our people and accelerating interventions that not only grow the economy but enable sustainable livelihoods cannot be overemphasised. We must therefore redouble our efforts to increase the pace at which we implement our programmes, particularly those that are intended to improve the lives of our people.

Tremendous progress has been made over the successive administrations since 1994, and each one of my predecessors contributed immensely towards building a transport system that is safe, affordable, efficient, reliable and seamlessly integrated. We are not there yet, and much still needs to be done. We have made a commitment to South Africans that we will move at a brisker pace in

trainees theory, with no prospect of them being able to achieve the number of flying hours to enable them to fly commercial aircrafts. Our cadets cannot forever remain squatters on foreign vessels because South Africa has very few ships on her Ships Register and cannot do their internships at sea on board a vessel. We must bring our collective effort to bear and put in place creative programmes that not only impart technical skills to our youth, but interventions that effectively reverse the tide of youth unemployment.

Tackling the persistence of apartheid spatial planning require of us to work tirelessly in building functional communities by ensuring that public transport is an enabler of both economic and social activity. Integrated transport planning must find practical expression in everything we do. This must not be lip service, but a daily lived reality of our people. Achieving seamless integration starts with Cities and our entities planning together. The integrated ticketing system must be implemented as a matter of urgency. The Department has issued the regulations that formalize the standard. Our entities must lead by example and the private sector will come to the party.

South Africa is a maritime nation and is the African continent's only country with access to and control over sea waters covering 3 oceans. The manner in which we conduct ourselves at multilateral institutions and honouring our international obligations must resonate with this reality. For many years we have sat at the top table at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) advancing our national interests and now is the time to aggressively drive our economic agenda guided by the recently approved Comprehensive Maritime Policy.

The key tenets of the 6th administration is consequences management and the rule of law. Our obligations to comply with the spirit and the letter of the law cannot be sacrosanct. This equally extends to the implementing all laws we have been entrusted with the responsibility to administer. However, we remain wanting insofar as the implementation of the National Ports Act of 2005. The corporatization of the National Ports Authority is an urgent matter which we should not shy away from tackling. This equally talks to the role of our Regulators in keeping in check operators and ensuring full compliance with the law.

The carnage on our roads continues unabated. It is time we re-imagine our efforts towards ensuring safety on our roads. Seamless integration must be a recurring theme in all our interventions. We must find creative and effective mechanism to create a traffic policing system with a seamlessly integrated value pipeline. National norms and standards must enforce this integration and create a single centre that co-ordinates all efforts. One of the major drivers of inefficiency in our traffic police responsibility is the rampant corruption across the system, from Drivers' Licence Testing Centres (DLTCs) to metro police departments. We must eliminate this scourge in our environment.

there is no reason to do so.

We must hit the ground running and package a 100-day plan that focuses on interventions that will transform the lives of our people for the better. This is our first engagement since my appointment and we will be visiting each of you and engage exhaustively on the delivery of your respective mandates. It is my desire to establish this platform as a permanent arrangement for us to meet regularly and address pressing issues that require our collective wisdom.

We must all commit to growing South Africa together through collaborative effort and team work. We are Team Transport and must play our part in taking our country to a higher growth trajectory.

I thank you.

END

Issued by:
The Ministry of Transport

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