

**SPEECH BY PREMIER DAVID MAKHURA AT THE  
LAUNCH OF THE 2017 OCTOBER TRANSPORT MONTH  
CAMPAIGN IN GAUTENG, JOHANNESBURG,  
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Ladies and Gentlemen

Today, I am delighted to launch the 2017 October Transport Month Campaign in Gauteng. We do so in partnership with the City of Johannesburg.

The Gauteng Provincial Government has adopted, *“Transforming and Modernising Public Transport Infrastructure in Gauteng”*, as the theme for this year’s campaign. This theme is derived from our multi-pillar

programme of Transformation, Modernization and Re-Industrialization of the province.

The Department of Roads and Transport is the provincial custodian of the October Transport Month Campaign. As a government-wide campaign, provincial departments and municipalities are expected to play a leading role in promoting public transport and in building and maintaining public transportation infrastructure.

We mobilize citizens to use public transport for daily commuting. We raise public awareness about the importance of the transport sector as an enabler of economic growth, providing job opportunities, and socially integrating communities. Moreover, the campaign is specifically designed to showcase roads and public transport infrastructure projects that have been successfully implemented by the three spheres of government.

That is precisely what we are doing today in partnership with the City of Johannesburg. We are pleased that the M1 freeway, which carries the highest traffic volume in our province, is being upgraded so as to improve safety and

ease of mobility for close to 100 000 motorists, who use the network on a daily basis. The repairs to the bridges and the upgrading of the freeway to three lanes on both sides of the network will result in greater efficiency and ease of movement for motorists and freight traffic.

Our government nationally, provincially and locally has invested heavily in road and public transport infrastructure. This investment has been on improving our freeway and provincial road networks, the Gautrain, the modernisation of Metrorail and the rollout of the Bus Rapid Transit systems in metropolitan municipalities. No government before has invested so heavily in such a wide array of public transport systems.

The injection of funds into transport projects is meant to facilitate improved mobility, allow for social inclusion, stimulate economic growth and enable the development of small and emerging contractors. It is also aimed at keeping the road network in a good condition so as to improve road safety.

The Gauteng Provincial Government continues to promote infrastructure-led economic growth at a time when the global economy, including our own, is experiencing a downturn. It continues to deliver on its mandate based on the triple goals of transformation, modernisation and re-industrialisation of our province. This is consistent with the National Development Plan of the country.

Between 2013 and 2016, Gauteng government has invested R30 billion in infrastructure development, the largest rate of growth in infrastructure investment by any provincial authorities in our country.

The R30 billion infrastructure investment has contributed 92 000 direct jobs into the Gauteng economy; R15 billion to support household incomes; R6 billion to government revenue; generated additional economic activity worth R26 billion to the provincial economy. The study further indicates that, for every R1 spent on infrastructure, an additional 92 cents was added to the Gauteng economy.

Since 2014, Gauteng Government has spent over R3 billion on upgrading and rehabilitating the road infrastructure along various corridors in the province. This is in line with our

government's commitment to provide a world-class road infrastructure. In the current financial year, the department's allocated budget is R6.8 billion with R1.9 billion specifically earmarked for transport infrastructure.

The provincial roads maintenance grant is being effectively used to keep our road network of 5638 km of Provincial roads in good shape. Twelve major road rehabilitation projects such as the N12; the N14 and the R82 from Eikenhof to Walkerville have been completed. Work on the remaining section of the N14 is underway. As part of the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Plan, nine roads were rehabilitated as alternative routes to e-tolls. We are also undertaking investment in new roads that will not be e-tolled.

The benefits to motorists include improved road user mobility; increased roadway capacity; reduced travel times; easy access to business, residential and agricultural estates and improved road safety.

Over the past 10 years our government has invested strongly on public transport systems. To date the estimated costs on Bus Rapid Transit systems in the three

metropolitan municipalities in our province is over R10 billion; the public-private partnership investment in the Gautrain is R30 billion and the current modernisation of Metrorail is estimated at over R10 billion. Annually, the Department subsidises bus services to the value of R2 billion.

In the next few months, plans to acquire 12 new trains (48 coaches) for the Gautrain system will be finalised. This will help to alleviate congestion that Gautrain passengers experience in the morning and evening peak hours. In addition to the acquisition of more trains, the project entails the development of new depot facilities and the upgrading of the existing Gautrain signalling system.

The new train project is expected to have a positive socio-economic impact in the province as the Gauteng Provincial Government will insist on 65 percent local content by the successful bidder. It is expected to sustain 10 000 jobs in Gauteng. Moreover, total government revenue is also expected to increase by an estimated R542 million in nominal terms between 2019 and 2023.

After seven years of operation and over 80 million passenger trips, the Gautrain has demonstrated that the face of public transport can be radically changed. A modern and efficient public transport system such as Gautrain has had a positive impact on the provincial economy, alleviated traffic congestion and rejuvenated several inner cities in Johannesburg and Tshwane. It has created jobs and helped to re-establish the rail sector in our province.

These benefits illustrate the need for rail as being the backbone of public transport in our province. The wider benefits of Gautrain indicates that between 2006 and 2011, over 122 000 jobs were created by the rapid rail system. For every R1 spent on Gautrain, R1.72 has been added to the Gauteng economy. Spatially, Gauteng now works much more efficiently and several billion Rands of private sector investment has been channelled into commercial development around the Gautrain stations.

We believe that the future expansion of the Gautrain rail network and the modernisation of the PRASA Metrorail system must be supported if rail-based public transport is to grow to the required levels to prevent urban sprawl and

unsustainable road congestion in the province. This is based on their:

- transformational impact on the Gauteng economy;
- the modernisation of public transport;
- greener transportation solutions for a healthier community;
- improved spatial development; and
- the creation of jobs and poverty alleviation.

It will also have significant socio-economic development benefits, including an estimated 211 000 jobs created in construction; R19 billion procurement spend on black owned entities; increased black ownership of companies in the rail sector; a strong focus on local content in the supply chain, and increased capacity in the rail sector through skills development.

It is for this reason also that we fully support the development of the Gibela rail construction plant in Nigel and we are looking forward to it being fully operational early next year. In my recent visit to Sao Paulo in Brazil, I visited the rail factory where the first set of 20 new Metrorail trains were built. I have no doubt that once the rail production line

is up and running at the Gibela plant, it will have a huge impact on our rail transport system and the regional economy, particularly in Ekurhuleni.

The full impact of these investments in roads and public transport will become apparent with time. It will result in improved mobility, social inclusion, economic growth and the development of small and emerging contractors. It will create jobs and develop skills. It will improve road safety and protect the environment. And ordinary citizens of our province will benefit from the expenditure on roads and public transport infrastructure through the downward stream of income sources such as salaries and wages.

I see a bright future for our roads and transport system in our province. Working together with the metropolitan and district municipalities, we can build an integrated, reliable, safe and accessible public transport system that will be a worthy and durable legacy to our people. That will be our lasting contribution to the future development of Gauteng.

I call on all road users to make road safety a priority by observing all the rules and regulations. Too many people die on our roads.

I also call upon all public transport operators to abide by the laws and regulations. Those who refuse to comply cannot be allowed to operate. Law enforcement agencies must deal decisively with those who embark on violence. We have established a Special Police Task Force to deal with violence between Uber and Metered Taxis so that we can bring perpetrators to book. Anarchy and lawlessness cannot be allowed in Gauteng.

With these words, I have pleasure in launching the 2017 October Transport Month Campaign in Gauteng.

I wish the transport family every success in this campaign!

Let us work together to give commuters and citizens a pleasant travel experience by building an integrated, affordable, safe, efficient and inter-modal public transport system.

I thank you.