

Department of Roads and Transport

Initiatives For The Empowerment Of SMMES

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Public Transport plays a central role in South African Economy, and thus the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport contribution to the empowerment of SMMEs within the Public Transport section cannot be over-emphasized.

DISCUSSION

Discussion:

- The Department's interventions for the empowerment of SMMEs within the subsidised bus contracts is guided by the Department of Transport (DoT) transformation plan for subsidised bus contracts.
- The National Transformation Plan is fully aligned to the Integrated Transport Sector Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment Charter (B-BBEE).
- The Department is in the process of introducing new subsidised bus contracts to address the challenges that are currently experienced with the old bus contracts such as:
 - short term contracts that prevent the current bus operator to recapitalised their fleet.
 - Some areas not having access to subsidised public transport.
 - Exclusion of Small Bus Operators and the Taxi Industry.

DEPARTMENT'S INITIATIVES TO DATE

- Development of a database for all Small Bus Operators in the Province.
- Formalization of the Small Bus Operators into Gauteng Small Bus Operators Council.
- Working together with other Government institutions such as SEDA to assist the taxi industry and Small Bus Operators to form formal business entities to be able to take advantage of the opportunities in the subsidized bus contracts.
- The Department's initiatives with GDED to establish and source strategic partners with the private sector to help the taxi industry to diversify their business interests.
- Establishment of relations with National Development Agency (NDA) who committed to offer financial and non financial support to transport cooperatives.

DEPARTMENT'S INITIATIVES TO DATE

- Department currently coordinating training sessions for the Taxi Industry and Small Bus Operators by UITP in preparation for upcoming opportunities.
- Development and approval of the procurement plan to introduce new long term subsidized Bus contracts.
- The Department is currently conducting passengers and route surveys to enable the finalization of the plan for the new subsidized bus contracts.
- Consultation with all key stakeholders is underway including all municipalities in the Province.



THE END