

## MEDIA STATEMENT

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To: All Media

## Attn: News Editors / Transport Reporters

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Gauteng launches Phase 1 construction of Vereeniging Intermodal Facility

As part of the Provincial Ntirhisano programme, Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi together with MEC for Transport and Logistics Kedibone Diale-Tlabela yesterday handed over a construction site to Axton Matrix -a contractor- for the commencement of Phase 1 upgrade of the Vereeniging Intermodal Facility in the Sedibeng District Municipality.

The Department has entered into a lease agreement for the land with the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) for a period of three years.

Undertaken at a cost of R30 million, the project is set to create 40 new job opportunities during construction and 10 during operations. The construction is expected to be completed in 2023.

MEC Diale-Tlabela welcomed the commencement of the project, saying it will play a crucial role in boosting economic activities in and around the area.

"Sedibeng District is an important part of the Growing Gauteng Together through smart mobility programme and the construction of this taxi rank is critical in turning Vereeniging into an economic development hub.

"It is also encouraging that this project will facilitate business activities around the taxi rank. Public transport operators, traders, commuters will benefit greatly from the improvement of this taxi rank. There will also be business opportunities and skills development for local contractors and labourers as part of the construction process," MEC remarked.

The MEC added the Department remains committed to building smart transport infrastructure projects that enables economic growth and job creation initiatives.

"This facility will be expanded into a modernised intermodal facility incorporating retail space, long-distance buses and train station, thus promoting government's priorities of improving the standard of living in townships as well as improving economic growth and recovery. This will go a long way towards changing the lives of people in the township, supporting local businesses and the informal sector" said the MEC.

The project will be done in two phases, with Phase 1 commencing with repairs and improvements to the current taxi rank that includes stormwater, surfacing the taxi rank, providing ablution facilities and having stalls for informal traders, amongst others.

Ends!

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport

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