



MEDIA STATEMENT

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For Immediate Release

Gauteng government holds successful consultation with women in the taxi industry

The transformation of the taxi industry can only come through the empowerment of women in the sector. This is according to MEC for Public Transport and Roads Infrastructure, Jacob Mamabolo, who addressed the Gauteng Provincial Seminar for women in the minibus taxi industry.

The special meeting was held in Johannesburg today, 28 October 2019, following a plea from women taxi operators for a platform to be created where they can engage with the Gauteng Provincial Government on issues that affect women in the sector.

“This meeting comes on the back of the Provincial Taxi Summit which made resolutions to transform and modernise the taxi industry which is still faced with serious problems including violence and patriarchal tendencies,” Mamabolo said.

MEC Mamabolo added that work to help corporatise the taxi industry would be fruitless if women, a majority of whom enter the sector as widows, are left out.

He said that women should take the lead in changing the behaviour of the drivers that they employ as this would have an impact in the reduction of road fatalities.

“The provincial government together with other stakeholders, including the taxi industry will be holding an important Road Safety Seminar in November as part of seeking extraordinary measures to combat the number of deaths that occur on our roads,” he added.

Mamabolo extended an invitation to women in the taxi industry to be part of the stakeholders who work together with government to find solutions that will assist in combating road crashes. He said that many of the accidents could be avoided only through the change of driver behaviour.

“The taxi industry, which carries 70 percent of the passengers in our province, should take lead in the campaign for road safety. I believe an intervention from women operators could give us a lasting solution. At the moment, we are losing 40 people across all our roads in the country daily, and this situation has to be arrested,” Mamabolo said.

MEC Mamabolo also invited renowned singer and actor Abigail Kubeka, who was assaulted, allegedly by a taxi driver after a collision in Soweto earlier this month. Mamabolo condemned the violent attack on Kubeka and was joined by the women in the industry in offering an apology.

“We have made many strides in changing the industry over the past few months, it is true that we will not solve all the problems at once. But we were disappointed and shocked to find out about what had happened to Mama Abigail,” added the MEC.

The seminar is part of the Department of Roads and Transport’s October Transport Month programme, which seeks to promote Gauteng province as the City Region of Smart Mobility.

As part of this ambitious plan, the department has prioritised road safety, decongesting the road network, depolluting the roads and finding smart technologies to improve the transport sector.

ENDS!

**For more information, contact the Department of Roads and Transport’s Melitah Madiba on 073 644 9935 or Theo Nkonki on 082 719 6404.
Email: PressOffice.gpdrt@gauteng.gov.za**