

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Gauteng government commends MATA on successful election of new executive

The Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport has commended the Mamelodi Taxi Association (MATA) for improvements in its governance structures and the election of a new executive.

Through an Administrator, the Department has been working with the association to bring stability since 2020 following the collapse of governance and management in its ranks.

This followed a Northern Gauteng High Court order which granted the Department powers to dissolve the executive committee following incidents of violence that led to the killing of 19 people.

“We are delighted by the substantive changes and improvements that we have seen in MATA after the appointment of Ms Hettie Groenewald as an administrator. She, together with an interim committee, have brought stability in the affairs of the association. This is a benchmark that we will be using as we seek to professionalise the minibus taxi industry,” said MEC Jacob Mamabolo.

Over the period an administrator has been assisting in running the affairs of the association, a proper bookkeeping system was introduced, and funds collected more efficiently from members. With improved income generated, the administrator and the advisory committee were even able to purchase offices for the association.

On 11 August 2020, the Pretoria High Court granted MEC Mamabolo a court order that, amongst others, brought to an end the old practice of collecting funds from members through methods bordering on money laundering.

“As we welcome the new executive, we are excited that they find a new and smart association. Their duty will be to ensure that all these improvements are sustained, and they bring in new efficiencies so the association is run professionally,” added Mamabolo.

The MEC also thanked Ms Groenewald and her advisory committee for their hard work which resulted in the substantive changes in the running of the association.

“The work the team has done is highly commendable, further indicating that our vision of integrating the taxi industry into the mainstream of public transport is not a pipe-dream. We

will take lessons we have learnt from this experience to other parts of the province,” remarked Mamabolo.

Ms Groenewald congratulated the incoming executive committee and her advisory committee for a job well done.

“I wish to express my appreciation to the MEC, the Department and other officials in government who eagerly assisted me in my task to lead MATA to this point. I would also extend words of gratitude to law-enforcement agencies who were always willing to assist, even at short notice, when they were called upon,” said Groenewald.

ENDS

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport