



SEDIBENG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

P. O. Box 471, Vereeniging, 1930, Corner Leslie & Beaconsfield Avenue, Vereeniging, 1931
Tel. (+27 16) 450 3960 / 3961, Fax: 086 262 6353, Cellphone: 082 672 8780
Email: danm@sedibeng.gov.za

External Communications: Media Release

To all media houses, News Editors & Journalists

Wednesday, 31st October 2012

A R27 million Bophelong Intermodal Public Transport Facility (Taxi Rank) is officially handed over to the Sedibeng District Municipality

As part of our Transport Month Programme, Tuesday, 30th October 2012 saw the Gauteng MEC for Transport, Mr. Ismail Vadi accompanied by the Members of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Transport & Infrastructure in Sedibeng District and Emfuleni Local Municipalities officially handed over a R27 million Bophelong Intermodal Public Transport Facility to the Sedibeng District Municipality.

The official opening of this facility forms part of the Gauteng Department of Transport's mandate to facilitate effective mobility at public transport focal points throughout the Province. This development should also be seen as part of the broader vision of responding to the special planning needs and integrating Sedibeng into the smart Gauteng City Region, as professed by the Sedibeng District Municipality.

The construction of the Bophelong Intermodal Public Transport Facility commenced in January 2011 and was completed in March 2012. Its official handover was only done in October due to water & electricity connection processes which were still been done on site.

The new facility will benefit the community of Bophelong Ext 1 as it has the capacity to accommodate a total of 100 taxis (80 on holding areas and 20 on loading bays), 5 buses and 30 bicycles at a time. The taxis in Bophelong ferry passengers to about 17 destinations while the buses are mainly used as a means of transport for scholars around the area.

The construction of this facility speaks to one of our key priority service delivery areas being that of "Renewing our Communities".

This facility is environmentally friendly and accommodative of all the commuters including those with special needs with the capacity to handle:

- 100 taxis plying a total of 12 destinations grouped under 4 loading bays.
- 20 Under-roof loading/drop-off stations are available.
- 5 buses will be accommodated at a time.
- Bicycle stands and parking for motor cycles is provided for people to leave their wheels and use public transport.

During the consultative processes with stakeholders, the destinations provided by the Taxi Associations represented in the Bophelong Transport Facility Project Steering Committee are the following:

- Grey Witkop, Parys, Sharpeville, Civic Centre (Vanderbijlpark), Boipatong, River and Surrounding Areas – Potchefstroom University, Sasolburg and Surrounding Areas, Johannesburg, Evaton, Sebokeng, Meyerton, Vereeniging and Heilbron.

“Working together with our people in Bophelong, we have managed ensure the successful construction of one of the best taxi ranks in the province. In pursued to our commitment of bringing services such as this facility to them, today the people of Bophelong are happy to be associated with this new facility”, said the Executive Mayor of the Sedibeng District Municipality: Cllr. Mahole Simon Mofokeng. It is a dream comes true.

Since the beginning of the construction of the Bophelong Transport Facility, communities and beneficiaries of this facility were consulted through a Project Steering Committee which was solely established to address their views and participation in the processes.

This was part of government of reaffirming our commitment to a responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government system. In the main, the purpose of the Project Steering Committee was to advise and monitor the planning and implementation of the project.

As a result, about fourteen (14) consultative meetings, including a workshop, were held during the project planning and design stages, and all key stakeholders were brought on board during these meetings.

The following key stakeholders were part of the consultative process:

- Gauteng Department of Roads & Transport;
- Sedibeng District Municipality;
- Emfuleni Local Municipality;
- Local Councillors;
- Sedibeng Regional Taxi Council and affiliate Taxi Associations (Vanderbijlpark, Taxi Association, VITA Taxi Association, Civic Centre Taxi Association & Vaal Wits Taxi Association);

- Gauteng Commuter Organisation (GCO);
- Top Six Management and affiliate Taxi Association (Get Ahead Taxi Association);
- African Dream Trust (ADT), Private Developer;
- South African Bus Operating Association (SABOA);
- Transport User's Group of Persons with Disabilities (TUGSA).

The taxi association representatives cited issues related to entrance to the Taxi Rank being only one and the general layout of the taxi rank itself. These are some of the issues which should have formed part of their submissions in the Project Steering Committee meetings and be resolved there.

This is why about 25 people wearing Santaco branded t-shirts were protesting outside the venue during the handover ceremony. MEC Vadi met with them and the meeting agreed that they reconvene again in the next week to finalise all issues of misunderstanding, including the operation plan of the taxi rank.

This development is intended to making the lives of the people of Sedibeng easier and better and should be seen in that light.

Ends!

**Issued by the External Communications Directorate
Sedibeng District Municipality**