



Hauweng steering committee during the signing of the compensation agreement



CITY GEARING UP FOR LAUNCH OF HAUWENG FIRST PHASE

Mangaung Metro Municipality and the Greater Bloemfontein Taxi Association have reached an important milestone in their working relationship to ensure that the city's Integrated Public Network Transport, Hauweng, is ready for the launch of first phase.

On Wednesday, September 22, the city's officials met with the Brandwag taxi operators to sign a compensation agreement, ahead of the launch of phase 1C of Hauweng; which includes three routes from Hoffman Square to the University of the Free State, Bloemgate Shopping Centre and Tempe Military Base. These routes return from the three destinations to Hoffman Square.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Acting City Manager, Sello More said the residents of Mangaung will note that the city has come a long way with the project and the essence of Hauweng is to increase the mobility of the people in a more comfortable way. "The ceremony marks a massive milestone with the taxi operators signing for the removal of taxis, on the route on which the first phase of Hauweng will be launched in a couple of weeks. The Brandwag line is now going to be run by Hauweng, which is a significant milestone, whilst we are still working on the other areas," said More.

IPTN Unit Head, Kolisang Rapulungoane explained that ten busses have been procured for the Hauweng bus operation. He said the routes will run 7 days a week, from 5am-9pm on weekdays. "The interval for the busses will be 5 minutes because we don't want passengers waiting for too long. It is an improved service, if you look at what the current taxis are offering. The reason we as the city are saying this is an improved

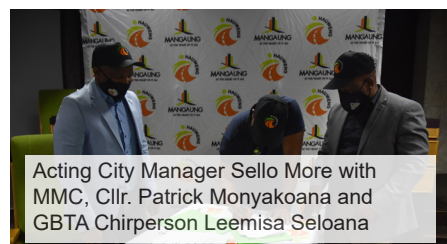


Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mxolisi Siyonzana

service is because it caters for people living with disabilities," said Rapulungoane. He added that public transport rarely caters for people living with disabilities, but the Hauweng busses are low-lying, which makes it easier for passengers using a wheelchair to wheel themselves in without any assistance. "The bus is less than what the taxi currently costs, and they will have access to affordable, safe and reliable transport," said Rapulungoane.

Member of the Mayoral Committee for Public Safety and Transport, Cllr. Patrick Monyakoana said this has not been an easy journey, but he is grateful that members of the GBTA were always willing to engage with the municipality and find a way forward to certain challenges. "I had to play an active role in the negotiations and ensure that I avail myself, because I understand taxi operators are businesspeople and this is their livelihood," said Monyakoana.

GBTA chairperson, Leemisa Seloane said he is securing the interest of taxi operators and believes that the municipality will stick to the terms of agreement. "There is an emphasis on the benefits, as we speak, drivers are being trained to ensure that they are ready to serve the residents when the first phase is launched. We want to make sure the transition from taxi to bus is as smooth as possible for commuters," concluded Seloane.



Acting City Manager Sello More with MMC, Cllr. Patrick Monyakoana and GBTA Chairperson Leemisa Seloane



GBTA Chairperson Leemisa Seloane



Hauweng bus station outside Bram Fisher building



Communications GM Qondile Khedama with IPTN unit head Kolisang Rapulungoane

MANGAUNG NEWS UPDATE

This platform has been created to communicate all the activities, projects, events and the latest developments within MMM. If an individual Directorate wants to publish their information, please contact the communications unit: (Tel: 051-4058212 or e-mail qondile.khedama@mangaung.co.za)