

Speech by the City's Executive Mayor, Patricia de Lille, at the full Council sitting on 25 June 2014

Good morning, goeie môre, molweni, as-salaam alaikum, shalom.

Mr Speaker,

Let me start by condemning the violent protests in Macassar and Mew Way, which have destroyed infrastructure and disrupted communities.

I would also like to draw attention to the fact that the City is urgently trying to resolve the taxi violence in the south of the city and Councillor Brett Herron is working with the Provincial Minister of Transport to bring recommendations to me for the resolution of the taxi conflict.

I must also condemn the group which undertook to destroy the container toilets provided to the residents of Kosovo informal settlement in Philippi.

These acts of vandalism were motivated by people who demanded full flush toilets.

We try to provide such toilets wherever we can.

Unfortunately, in certain areas, the typology of the land means that we have to look at alternative solutions, such as container toilets.

Installation of these facilities has been underway since February 2014, and thus far over 500 toilets have been installed, with the handover of the final 250 imminent.

The container toilets are portable 100-litre containers surrounded by a concrete structure. These containers are removed and cleaned on a regular basis and then returned.

This roll-out has involved extensive consultation with the local community, with several meetings being held to introduce the community to the container toilets, and discuss their maintenance and location.

The City received positive feedback at these meetings, and was given permission from the community to proceed with the project.

Our efforts to drive service delivery for all are undermined when a minority undermines the rights of people for their own selfish reasons.

Mr Speaker, I am very pleased to report to this Council that we are making great progress in our N2 Express Service to Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha, which is on course to be rolled out on 5 July 2014.

This project will benefit most of the people of the south-east of the metro.

While the construction projects are ongoing, the City will be providing training to minibus-taxi drivers to be employed as MyCiTi bus drivers once they have successfully passed their tests.

One of the City of Cape Town's core objectives is to build an inclusive city where the legacy of our past is undone through linking people with opportunities and by creating an economically enabling environment for investment and job creation. It is anticipated that approximately 100 local taxi drivers will receive training to operate the buses on the N2 Express service.

The training cost of approximately R29 200 per learner will be paid for by the City and the first group of drivers will commence with their driving classes as soon as they have been nominated by the two affected taxi associations in Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha.

All of the trainees will be offered employment as MyCiTi bus drivers once they have passed a diagnostic assessment, learner's licence test, driver's licence test and route and product training.

Those taxi drivers who do not qualify for the MyCiTi bus driver training because they are not in possession of a Grade 10 qualification will be assisted by the City with an Adult Basic Education and Training (Abet) course. The training will focus on numeracy and literacy, with the objective being to uplift the candidates' educational qualification to a level where they meet the entry requirement to start with the MyCiTi bus driver training.

Thus not only will we be linking the people of the south-east of the city with opportunities, but we will also be up-skilling people through education and training.

What is also commendable about this process is the positive relationship that we have developed with the Congress for Democratic Taxi Associations (CODETA), who have been our partners in putting this agreement together.

This process is part of the world-class transportation system we are building in the city – one where people of all backgrounds use the same multi-modal system to get around Cape Town.

Indeed, before Council today is the Integrated Public Transport Network (IPTN) plan for the next 18 years, which will provide for the increase of population from 4,1 million today to a predicted 5,6 million in 2032.

This IPTN confirms the City's commitment to improve mobility, eradicate barriers, reduce costs and overcome the apartheid spatial planning legacy.

It will enhance our residents' access to economic opportunities and social amenities – one of our key commitments in building an opportunity city.

As we address the spatial legacy of apartheid, the plan proposes an additional 10 MyCiTi trunk routes on dedicated red lanes, connecting passengers along the following corridors:

- Metro South East (Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain) and Wynberg and Claremont – the construction of two trunk routes in what is generally referred to as the Lansdowne/Wetton Corridor is prioritised
- Dunoon and Century City
- Gordon's Bay and Retreat
- Mitchells Plain and Durbanville
- Westlake and Bellville
- Strandfontein and the Cape Town Central Business District (CBD)
- Eerste River and Big Bay
- Khayelitsha and Century City
- Century City and Wallacedene

An additional three routes will operate in both mixed traffic and on dedicated red lanes:

- Road from Mitchells Plain to Cape Town CBD via Klipfontein, Main and Victoria Roads
- N2 Express Service between Khayelitsha East and the Cape Town CBD to be rolled out on 5 July 2014; Khayelitsha West to be rolled out towards the end of 2014
- N2 Express Service between Mitchells Plain East and the Cape Town CBD to be rolled out on 5 July 2014; Mitchells Plain West to be rolled out towards the end of 2014

As we move towards creating a city of even greater opportunities, I am pleased to see that our initiative to create financial incentives in Atlantis specifically and softer incentives for the whole city more generally is paying off.

In Atlantis, the incentives include a mixed use electricity rate at fixed prices from the previous year and Council land made available exclusively for the use of the green technology sector, and the waiving of development fees.

Recently, construction of Gestamp Renewable Industries (GRI) Wind Steel South Africa's new 12 000 m² wind tower mast production facility in the Green Technology Industrial Park in Atlantis started.

It is hoped that this facility will be completed in October 2014. This is the first investment, comprising R300 million, that the City of Cape Town has attracted through our pilot Investment Incentive Scheme in Atlantis.

GRI Wind Steel South Africa's factory will have a manufacturing capacity of 150 three-section wind towers per year. This state-of-the-art facility will make use of the latest energy saving technologies designed to fully exploit the benefits of natural lighting and ventilation.

Mr Speaker, I am also pleased to announce successes with the Social Development and Early Childhood Development Directorate's Poverty Alleviation and Reduction Programme, which has spent about R1,5 million on food gardens, creating opportunities for residents to become self-sustainable.

The project has not only helped to alleviate poverty, but it has provided residents with skills they need to earn a living.

This month, the Poverty Alleviation and Reduction Programme shared its first harvest of the Elsie's River Green Grow vegetable garden project with the local community. The project, which was started in December last year, has employed 66 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) workers from the area.

The residents were employed to prepare two hectares of public open space by planting a variety of vegetables.

I think it is a great demonstration of the power of local initiatives mixed with the possibilities of local empowerment provided by the City's EPWP programme.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to commend our various service departments for embodying the values of the caring city in their compassionate response to disasters in the past month.

The Human Settlements Directorate has issued approximately 200 enhanced emergency housing kits to those affected by the Masiphumelele fire which destroyed 200 structures and partially damaged 25. These residents will now be able to start rebuilding their homes.

The directorate has made the affected area more suited for people to live there by creating a dry platform so that structures can be rebuilt. Due the extreme weather, many areas were flooded.

In certain areas of the site, approximately 500 mm of dry material has been deposited to enable affected residents to construct their homes safely once issued with their enhanced fire emergency kits.

As part of the City of Cape Town's Winter Readiness Programme, all of the rescue and disaster assistance agencies remain on standby and ready to respond to the needs of the flood victims affected by winter storms.

The City's Disaster Risk Management Centre has been instrumental in providing much needed flood kits, blankets, baby packs and hot meals to flood victims across the metro.

As of June, the City has provided nearly 300 flood kits, 16 354 blankets and 16 354 meals to affected residents.

Areas that have benefited from our relief efforts include: Solly's Town, Gxagxa, Gugulethu, STT, Makhaza, Taiwan, Simonyene, Murray and Robert, and Nomzamo informal settlements.

Other affected areas where emergency kits were distributed include Steenberg, Lavender Hill, Cavalla Dorp, Village Heights, Driftsands and Blikkiesdorp.

All of these actions are examples of proactive action taken by the City in the face of unfortunate events – just as we took proactive action when Sanral evicted the community from Lwandle.

About two weeks ago, the City had a meeting with the community and Ses'Khona. Ses'Khona were advocating for 849 families to benefit from the deal and for emergency kits to be 6 m x 3 m.

The City did not change our position on 234 families benefitting.

I suggested that the affected community lobby Sanral for 6m x 3m kits and that Sanral accommodate 849 families.

I have also written this morning to Minister Sisulu asking her on what grounds she has appointed a commission of enquiry into the Lwandle matter and what she intends doing with the recommendations as ministerial enquiries may provide advice to a minister only.

I would suggest that the national ministry explore the motivations of Sanral, which is a State-owned company, to better understand why these evictions took place.

In conclusion, I think we can all be proud of the work that we have done in the City in the past month.

Under difficult circumstances, we have managed to create opportunities for a wide range of people by driving investment and installing the kind of public infrastructure that generates economic growth.

What hinders us in our efforts are those political instigators who use human misery to drive their agendas, destroy City property, or blame the City for the actions of State-owned companies.

But we will not be deterred in our efforts.

The people of Cape Town understand who is working with them to drive change and make progress possible, together.

Thank you, baie dankie, enkosi.